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Review

CHLOROSULFONATION OF AROMATIC AND HETERO-AROMATIC SYSTEMS

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1. INTRODUCTION

The early work on sulfonation, chlorosulfonation and the formation of sulfonyl derivatives was reviewed by Suter¹ and by Suter and Weston for aromatic hydrocarbons.² More recent reviews of sulfonation were carried out by Gilbert,^{3,4} Hogg,⁵ Cerfontain,⁶ Anderson⁷ and Barrett.⁸ In this review of the literature since 1950, we will concentrate upon the use of chlorosulfonic acid, (chlorosulfuric acid, ClSO₃H), to achieve the chlorosulfonation of aromatic compounds, i.e., the replacement of one or more hydrogen atoms by the chlorosulfonyl (SO₂Cl) group. General properties of chlorosulfonic acid and specific synthesis of a variety of sulfonic acids employing this reagent have been described.^{9,10}

1.1 Mechanistic Studies

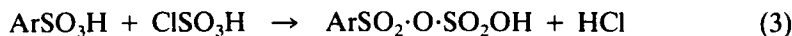
In the sulfonation of aromatic compounds by sulfuric acid, although much mechanistic work has been carried out, the precise nature of the electrophile remains in doubt.¹¹ Sulfur trioxide is definitely involved, either free or in a combined form, however, the electrophile appears to vary according to the concentration of the sulfuric acid used. In aqueous acid (<80–85% H₂SO₄), the electrophile is probably H₃SO₄⁺, while at higher concentrations (>85% H₂SO₄) pyrosulfuric acid (H₂S₂O₇) is favoured.¹¹

With chlorosulfonic acid less mechanistic work has been carried out and the precise nature of the electrophilic species involved is even more uncertain. Studies of thermodynamic and experimental data indicated that when an aromatic compound reacts with an equimolar quantity of chlorosulfonic acid, the first step yields

the corresponding sulfonic acid. In the presence of an excess of the reagent, the sulfonic acid is converted more slowly into the sulfonyl chloride with liberation of sulfuric acid^{11a}:



The first step is driven to completion by removal of the hydrogen chloride liberated and the progress of the reaction can be monitored by measurement of the amount of gas evolved.⁴ Early studies of the mechanism of the reaction of benzene with an equimolar amount of chlorosulfonic acid showed¹² that the major product was benzenesulfonic acid in equation (1) ($\text{Ar}=\text{Ph}$), together with a little diphenyl sulfone. With an excess of the reagent, benzenesulfonyl chloride was obtained in Equation (2) ($\text{Ar}=\text{Ph}$). Spryskov^{12a} demonstrated that the second reaction was reversible and measured the equilibrium constants for several different substrates. In the benzene-chlorosulfonic acid reaction, the quantity of diphenyl sulfone was increased by addition of benzenesulfonic acid, but not by benzenesulfonyl chloride.¹³ The sulfone therefore appeared to result from the reaction of benzene-sulfonic acid and benzene, under the influence of chlorosulfonic acid. Sulfone formation was relatively favoured at low temperatures; this may be due to the formation of an intermediate pyrosulfonic acid¹⁴:



As the chlorosulfonation step in Equation (2) is reversible, the experimental conditions must be adjusted in order to achieve optimum yields of the desired products. An excess of chlorosulfonic acid can be used to drive this step to completion and it has been shown¹⁵ that where reaction costs were important that a ratio of 5:1 for the ratio of reagent to substrate was desirable. However, greater efficiency has been claimed by stepwise reaction of the substrate with the reagent at moderate temperatures.¹⁶ The yield can also be improved by removal of the sulfuric acid which is formed. This can sometimes be achieved by the addition of sodium chloride,⁴ but it has been reported^{17,18} that this could lead to reduced yields of the sulfonyl chloride due to the conversion of chlorosulfonic acid into the unreactive chlorosulfonate anion:



Sulfuric acid ideally can be removed by conversion into chlorosulfonic acid. This can be achieved by carbon tetrachloride,⁴ sulfur and chlorine,⁴ and also sulfur trioxide in the presence of hydrogen chloride.¹⁶ In the latter case therefore both by-products are removed. A combination of sodium chloride and carbon tetrachloride has enabled a reduction in the amount of chlorosulfonic acid required.⁴ In addition the use of the thionyl chloride, a chlorinating solvent, has also proved helpful and permitted less acid to be used.⁴

The sulfonating power of chlorosulfonic anhydride ($\text{Cl}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$) is less than that of chlorosulfonic acid. However, addition of the anhydride to the reagent increases the yield of arylsulfonyl chloride.¹⁹ The anhydride probably converts the sulfonic

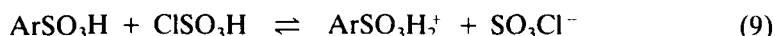
acid and sulphuric acid into the sulfonyl chloride and chlorosulfonic acid respectively, Equations (6, 7):



The relative rates of sulfonation of sulfonyl chlorides, sulfonic acids and sulfonate anions with chlorosulfonic acid follow the order:

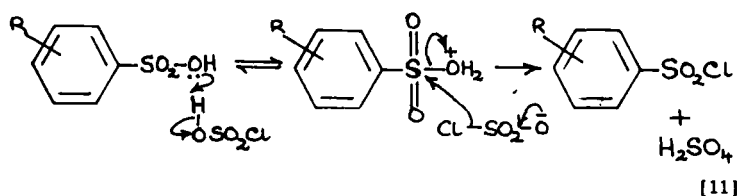
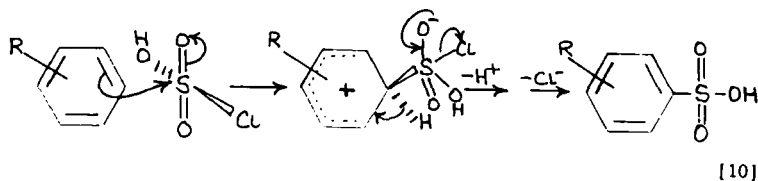


This order is in keeping with the conversion of the sulfonic acid into the sulfonyl chloride and can be explained in terms of the latter two substrates destroying part of the reagent, Equations (8, 9)²⁰:



The kinetics of the conversion of benzenesulfonic acid into the sulfonyl chloride were studied in chlorosulfonic acid.²¹ The reactions between benzenesulfonyl chloride, sulfuric acid and chlorosulfonic acid at 20–50° were acid-catalysed and the equilibrium constants were practically independent of the temperature.²²

In the reaction of the majority of aromatic compounds with an excess of chlorosulfonic acid, the mechanism of formation of the intermediate sulfonic acid and the final product may be depicted as follows, Equations (10, 11):



There is little precise information regarding the mechanistic details for these two reactions. It would appear reasonable to assume that the initial electrophilic species is chlorosulfonic acid. At higher temperatures however, reaction (12) is more pronounced:



Hence, under these conditions, sulfur trioxide may play a significant role in the sulfonation process (10).

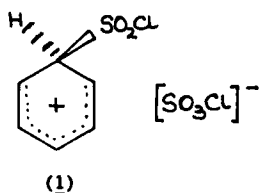
Kinetic data for the conversion of *p*-dichlorobenzene into the corresponding 2-sulfonyl chloride by chlorosulfonic acid were in agreement with the two-step reaction mechanism *via* the intermediate sulfonic acid.²³

The sulfonation of the secondary aromatic amines, PhNHMe and PhNHEt, by chlorosulfonic acid in *o*-dichlorobenzene was a second-order reaction and involved direct reaction of the amine with HSO_3^+ .²⁴ On the other hand, the analogous reaction with the tertiary amines, PhNMe₂ and PhNEt₂, was first order involving initial protonation of amine-sulfur trioxide complexes which rearranged to the aminobenzenesulfonic acids.²⁴ The kinetics of chlorination by chlorosulfonic acid of *p*-carbomethoxyaminophenylsulfonic acid have been studied photometrically at 295 nm.²⁵ The results indicated that the first step was addition of 2H^+ to RSO_3H , followed by equilibration with chlorosulfonic acid. The equilibrium constant was 3.65 at 20–70°C.

Phenols with chlorosulfonic acid gave aryl sulfates which reacted with excess of the reagent to form the corresponding sulfonic acids. The kinetics of the complex reactions of 2-*t*-butylphenols have been elucidated.²⁶

Sulfonation of naphthalene at 0° and 170°C gave 1,1'- and 2,2'-dinaphthyl sulfones respectively as major by-products. The isomerisation of naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid into the 2-sulfonic acid was concluded to be relatively fast in comparison with the conversion of the sulfonic acid into the sulfone.¹⁸

Investigations have been carried out on chlorosulfonation reactions in dichloromethane as solvent. The extent of the reaction with benzene at 0–20°C was found to be dependent upon the reaction time, increasing from 60% after a few minutes to 70% after 1 hour.²⁷ At low temperatures (–30° to –7°C) there was an induction period. Conflicting results were obtained from kinetic studies of chlorosulfonation reactions in dichloromethane. The reaction with benzene has been reported to be both first order and third order. It was concluded that the hydrocarbon reacted with an ion pair, $[\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}]^+ [\text{SO}_3\text{Cl}]^-$ to give a complex (1) which subsequently decomposed



to the sulfonyl chloride.²⁷ In the case of toluene and *m*-xylene, sulfonation was essentially first order with respect to chlorosulfonic acid.^{27a}

The optimum conditions for the chlorosulfonation of aromatic compounds vary widely and depend upon the nature of the substrate.^{4,10} In the case of electron-donating substituents in the aromatic ring (e.g., alkyl, alkoxy, acetamido, hydroxyl), the reactions occur easily and can usually be carried out under mild conditions, the orientation being *ortho-para*-substitution. Thus, a relatively small excess of chlorosulfonic acid (a minimum of 2 equivalents) is required at comparatively low temperatures (–5° to 30°C), either in the presence or absence of a solvent, e.g., chloroform or dichloromethane. However, when electron-withdrawing substituents (e.g., nitro, carboxyl, carbonyl, sulfonyl) are present, the reactions occurred with difficulty. They required prolonged treatment with an excess of the reagent at higher temperatures, (100–150°C), and led to *m*-sulfonation.²⁸

Amino and halogen substituents behave anomalously. Amino groups are usually

substantially protonated under the strongly acidic reaction conditions and hence can lead to deactivation and *m*-substitution. Although halogen groups are *ortho*-/*para*-directing, they are electron withdrawing and consequently cause deactivation of the substrate.

1.2 Characterization of Sulfonyl Chlorides

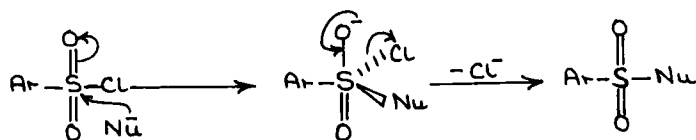
1.2.1 Derivative Formation

Sulfonyl chlorides can be readily isolated on completion of chlorosulfonation reactions, either by addition to ice-water followed by filtration, or by extraction with organic solvents. In contrast, sulfonic acids are water soluble and their isolation is tedious. As the sulfonyl chlorides are often difficult to purify and are fairly sensitive to traces of moisture which lead to decomposition, they are usually characterized chemically by treatment with nucleophilic reagents, e.g., amines, alcohols, phenols, hydrazines and azide anion.^{7,8,20}

The sulfonamides in particular, after recrystallization, are generally well-defined crystalline solids.^{1,7} However, in those cases where the sulfonyl chlorides are stable and amenable to purification, various chemical methods are available for their analysis.²⁹

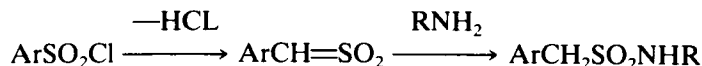
Kinetic studies of the reaction of benzenesulfonyl chloride with amines indicated an acceleration by added salts.³⁰ Thiophene-2-sulfonyl chloride reacted with substituted anilines slower than benzenesulfonyl chloride, indicative of a decrease in the electrophilicity of the sulfur atom. The solvolysis of arylsulfonyl chlorides in aqueous media has received considerable attention.^{31,31a,31b}

The nucleophilic substitution reactions of arylsulfonyl chlorides are generally considered to follow an addition-elimination mechanism:^{18,32}



It is supported by experiments involving the relative hydrolysis rates of ArSO_2Cl and $\text{ArCH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$.³³ The sulfonyl chlorides of the former series are less sensitive to substituent effects. In addition, the hydrolysis of arylsulfonyl fluorides³⁴ are catalysed by triethylamine and acetate anion and the alkaline hydrolysis of substituted benzenesulfonyl fluorides are particularly sensitive to substituent effects as demonstrated by the large value of the reaction constant.

The kinetics of chlorine-isotopic exchange between lithium chloride and substituted benzenesulfonyl chlorides in sulfolane solution indicated that the reaction involved a synchronous displacement mechanism of the $\text{S}_\text{N}2$ type, *via* a trigonal bipyramidal transition state.³⁵ In contrast, arylsulfonyl chlorides of the type $\text{ArCH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$ undergo substitution *via* the sulfene mechanism and not by direct displacement at the sulfur atom:



1.2.2 Spectroscopic Methods

Spectroscopic methods provide important means of product characterization. Thus, infra-red spectroscopy is primarily of value for the confirmation of the presence of the sulfonyl group. Two characteristic absorption bands are usually observed at $\sim 1350\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $\sim 1150\text{ cm}^{-1}$, which correspond to the asymmetric and symmetric S—O stretching frequencies respectively.^{36–39}

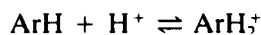
Mass spectrometry of sulfonyl derivatives may also provide information concerning the presence of this group, with loss of SO_2 in the fragmentation pattern.⁴⁰ It is often possible to investigate the aromatic substitution pattern by proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy using approximate first-order analysis. Second-order analysis with spectral fitting by means of an iterative program such as PANIC can provide accurate values of the chemical shifts and coupling constants.

2. SUBSTRATE SYSTEMS

2.1 Hydrocarbons

2.1.1 Monocyclic Systems

Aromatic hydrocarbons are readily protonated in protic solvents, e.g., sulfuric and chlorosulfonic acid:



The protonated form of the hydrocarbon is far less reactive to electrophilic substitution than the unprotonated form.

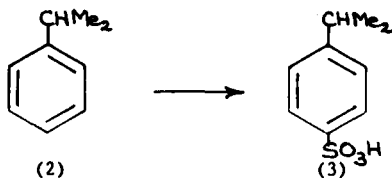
The reaction of benzene with chlorosulfonic acid gave high yields of benzenesulfonyl chloride (90–97%).^{41–43} The reaction products in 1,2-dichloroethane were sensitive to the reaction conditions.⁴⁴ Addition of sodium sulphate to the reaction mixture lowered the yield of the sulfonyl chloride.⁴⁵ The product mixture usually contained the sulfonic acid, sulfonyl chloride and sulfone.⁴⁴ Benzenesulfonyl chloride was prepared in a variety of reaction conditions^{14,46–49} and in a continuous process in high yield (87.6%).⁵⁰ Treatment of hexaphenylbenzene with excess chlorosulfonic acid gave hexa(chlorosulfonylphenyl)benzene,⁵¹ where steric considerations suggested *p*-substitution.

2.1.2 Monoalkylbenzenes

The action of chlorosulfonic acid on toluene at -80° to 10° gave the *p*-sulfonic acid,⁵² whose yield decreased on lowering the temperature.⁵³ The reaction also gave a mixture of isomers,⁵⁴ where the yield of the *p*-isomer was increased considerably by adding ammonium chloride,⁵⁵ and by addition of catalysts.⁵⁶ In certain cases the *p*-isomer could be isolated as the sole product.⁵⁷

The ratio of *p*- to *o*-isomers was dependent upon the molar ratios of toluene and chlorosulfonic acid.⁵⁴ The isomers of toluenesulfonyl chloride can be prepared in a continuous process.⁵⁸

Ethyl benzene,^{59,60} 1-phenyloctane,⁵² phenylcyclohexane⁵² and isopropylbenzene (cumene)^{52,61} were chlorosulfonated in the *p*-position. The regioselectivity of chlorosulfonation of a series of alkylbenzenes (PhR; R=Me, Et, CHMe₂) indicated that steric effects were important.⁶¹ Cumene (2) at 75°C afforded the *p*-sulfonic acid (90–95%) (3); the amount of the *o*-isomer was increased by conducting the reaction at lower temperatures (0–25°C) and by adding cumene to the sulfonating agent.



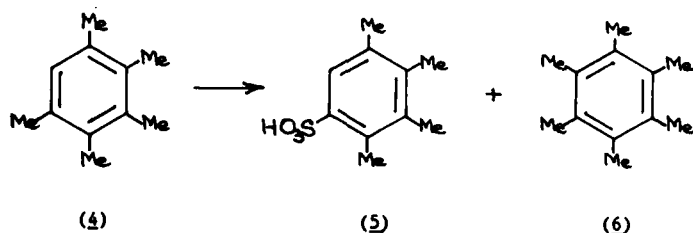
Higher molecular weight alkylbenzenes,⁶² e.g., decylbenzene⁶³ and dodecylbenzene were converted to the corresponding benzenesulfonyl chlorides.^{64,65}

In *p*-nitrotoluene, substitution by the sulfonyl chloride group occurred *ortho* to the methyl group.⁶⁶

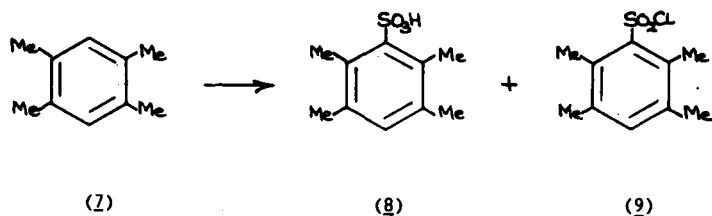
2.1.3 Polyalkylbenzenes

o-Xylene reacted with chlorosulfonic acid to give a low yield (26%) of 2,3-dimethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride.⁶⁷

The sulfonation and chlorosulfonation of tetra- and penta-alkylbenzenes is often complicated by competing alkyl group rearrangements (the Jacobsen reaction).⁶⁸ Thus, pentamethylbenzene (4) by prolonged reaction with sulfuric acid afforded a mixture of the sulfonic acid (5) and hexamethylbenzene (6):



The latter resulted from rearrangement of pentamethylbenzenesulfonic acid. However, polyalkylbenzenesulfonic acids can be readily prepared because the rearrangement is slow relative to sulfonation. Thus rapid treatment of durene (7) with chlorosulphonic acid gave a mixture of the sulfonic acid (8) and the chloride (9):



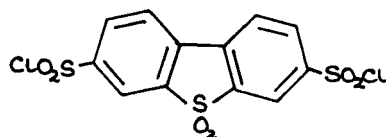
2.1.4 Polycyclic Systems

Chlorosulfonation of naphthalene gave a mixture of sulfonic acids and the sulfone^{18,69}; the reaction has been extensively studied at low temperatures (-35° to 0°C).⁷⁰ 1,5-Naphthalenedisulfonyl chloride reacted with a very large excess (50 equivalents) of chlorosulfonic acid to give the 1,3,5-trisulfonyl chloride; these harsh conditions reflect the influence of the two deactivating sulfonyl groups on the reactivity of the substrate.⁷¹ When the reaction was performed using an equimolar ratio of substrate and chlorosulfonic acid, the isomeric dinaphthyl sulfones were formed at both low and high temperatures.⁷² The yield of mixed sulfones was highest at 160 – 170°C (10–11 hours).⁷¹

The reaction of anthracene with chlorosulfonic acid produced anthracene-1-, 2-, and 9-sulfonic acids, a mixture of anthracene-disulfonic acids, 9-chloroanthracene, 9,9'-bianthryl, and anthracene polymers. The yield and formation of each depended upon the experimental conditions and whether chloroform, dioxan, or a mixture of pyridine and isoparaffin was used as solvent.^{73,74}

2.1.5 Miscellaneous Hydrocarbons

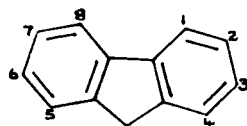
Reaction of chlorosulfonic acid with biphenyl at room temperature gave both the 4-sulfonyl chloride and 4,4'-disulfonyl chloride.^{75,76} Pollak *et al.*⁷⁵ claimed the formation of dibenzothiophene-1,1-dioxide-3,6-disulfonyl chloride (**10**) in the reaction of biphenyl with chlorosulfonic acid (6 equivalents) under mild conditions.



(10)

Attempts to obtain (**10**) using the same conditions were unsuccessful, only biphenyl-4,4'-disulfonyl chloride was isolated.⁷⁶ Under forcing conditions, however, (**10**) formed in good yield from biphenyl using a large excess of chlorosulfonic acid.⁷⁶

Diphenylmethane and bibenzyl⁷⁷ with chlorosulfonic acid each gave the corresponding 4,4'-disulfonyl chloride, but fluorene (**11**) gave a mixture of the 2- and 2,7-disulfonyl chloride even with a large excess (12 equivalents) of the reagent.^{77a,77b}



(11)

2.2 Halogeno Compounds

The kinetics of sulfonation of chlorobenzene with chlorosulfonic acid have been studied.⁷⁸ Sulfonation of chlorobenzene,^{79–81} and fluorobenzene^{82,83} gave predom-

inately *p*-substitution, together with the sulfone as a by-product.⁸⁴ The yield of the sulfone can be increased under a variety of conditions.^{13,85-88}

The reactions of *o*-, *m*- and *p*-dichlorobenzenes with chlorosulfonic acid have been investigated.⁸⁹ 1,2-Dichlorobenzene,^{90,91} gave a good yield of 3,4,3',4'-tetrachlorodiphenyl sulfone, although the 1,3- and 1,4-isomers⁹² yielded only the expected sulfonyl chlorides. The difference arises from the lack of steric hindrance in the 4-position of 1,2-dichlorobenzene facilitating sulfone formation.

1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene and the 1,3,5-isomer^{93,94} were readily converted into the trichlorobenzenesulfonyl chlorides. 1,2,3,4-Tetrachlorobenzene⁹⁵ gave the 2,3,4,5-tetrachlorobenzenesulfonyl chloride; but under drastic conditions 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene only afforded hexachlorobenzene. A possible mechanism was proposed in which the pre-formed sulfonyl chloride underwent loss of sulfur dioxide to give the pentachlorobenzene and ultimately hexachlorobenzene.^{95a}

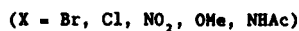
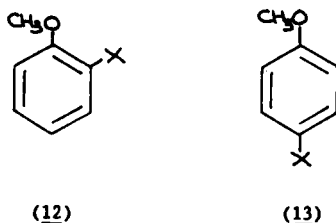
In 1-chloro-2-nitrobenzene sulfonation took place *para* to the chlorine atom as would be anticipated.⁹⁶⁻⁹⁸ With 1-chloro-4-nitrobenzene, 2-chloro-5-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride⁹⁸ was obtained, while with 1-chloro-3-nitrobenzene, substitution took place *para* to the chlorine atom.⁹⁸ All these isomeric chloronitrobenzenes contained chloranil as a by-product.⁹⁸

3-Trifluoromethylbenzenesulfonyl chlorides were prepared as intermediates in the synthesis of drugs, agrochemicals and dyes.⁹⁹ Thus, 2-chlorotrifluoromethylbenzene was reacted with a mixture of fuming sulfuric acid and chlorosulfonic acid to give 4-chloro-3-trifluoromethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride in very low yield. Chlorosulfonation of β -chloroethylbenzene gave the *p*-sulfonyl chloride.¹⁰⁰

Treatment of aryl iodides with chlorosulfonic acid gave either chlorinated products or sulfones rather than the corresponding sulfonyl chlorides (see section 2.10.2).

2.3 Ethers

The chlorosulfonation of anisole is reported to take place *para* to the methoxyl group.¹⁰¹ With *o*-(12) and *p*-(13) substituted anisoles the reactions went in high yields:

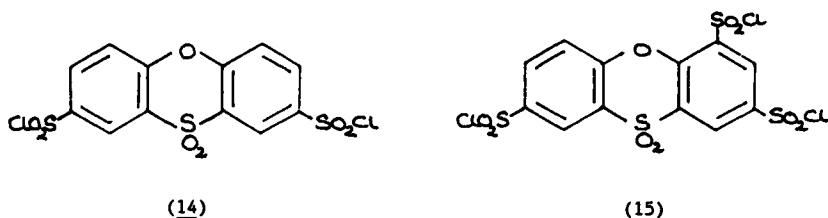


the former reaction generally required only mild conditions.^{102,103} The ease of reaction is probably due to the lack of steric hindrance in the position *para* to the methoxyl group.

2,3,5-Trimethylanisole with chlorosulfonic acid gave 4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride.^{104,105}

Diphenyl ether with chlorosulfonic acid afforded the corresponding 4,4'-sulfonyl chloride^{106,107}; this product was also obtained in the presence of N-containing compounds or their salts,¹⁰⁸ fatty acids¹⁰⁹ (or their derivatives) and alkali metal salts.¹¹⁰

The reaction of diphenyl ether with chlorosulfonic acid under forcing conditions afforded a mixture of the cyclic sulfones (14) and (15).⁷⁶



The chlorosulfonation of 2'-chloro-4-nitro-diphenyl ether and 2',6'-dichloro-4-nitrodiphenyl ether afforded very poor yields of the sulfonyl chlorides, which were very susceptible to hydrolysis due to the electron-withdrawing groups.^{111,112}

2.4 Phenols

In the reaction of phenol with chlorosulphonic acid at temperatures of -40° to 0°C , equal amounts of 2- and 4-hydroxybenzenesulfonic acids were formed together with traces of the disulfonic acids.^{113,114} The relative rate of formation of the 2-hydroxybenzenesulfonic acid compared with that of the 4-hydroxy isomer was found to increase with decreasing temperature.¹¹³

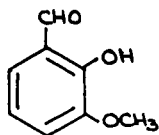
Treatment of 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- and 3,5-dichlorophenols with chlorosulfonic acid afforded the following substituted benzenesulfonyl chlorides: 2,3-dichloro-4-hydroxy, 3,5-dichloro-2-hydroxy, 2,5-dichloro-4-hydroxy, 3,5-dichloro-4-hydroxy, 4,5-dichloro-2-hydroxy and 2,6-dichloro-4-hydroxy respectively.¹¹⁵ The orientation of chlorosulfonation is controlled by the electron-releasing hydroxyl group, so that where possible sulfonation occurred *para* to this group, however when this position is blocked by a substituent sulfonation occurred *ortho* to the hydroxyl group.¹¹⁵⁻¹¹⁸ Experiments showed that the maximum yields of sulfonyl chlorides from the appropriate dichlorophenols required the use of a large excess (approximately 5 equivalents) of chlorosulfonic acid in each case (conditions similar to those encountered with chlorosulfonation of aromatic carboxylic acids), made necessary by the condensation of chlorosulfonic acid with the phenolic hydroxyl group.¹¹⁵

The chlorosulfonation of hydroquinone,¹¹⁹ higher alkyl phenols,¹²⁰ *p*-methoxyphenol,¹²¹ and 1,2-naphthoquinone¹²² have also been reported.

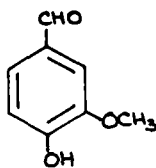
Sulfation is usually more easily effected than sulfonylation.¹²³⁻¹²⁶

2.5 Aldehydes and Ketones

Comparatively little work has been carried out on aldehydes¹²⁷ and there were no reports of the use of chlorosulfonic acid. *o*-Vanillin (16) is claimed to react with oleum to give the 5-sulfonic acid.¹²⁸



(16)



(16a)

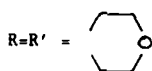
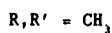
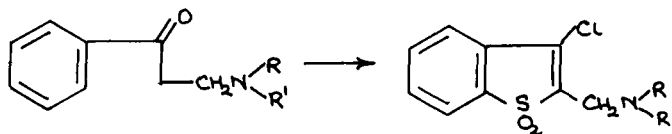
However, later work¹²⁹ failed to reproduce this result. Attempts to chlorosulfonate *o*-vanillin, vanillin (16a) and 2,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde with chlorosulfonic acid under various conditions were unsuccessful and only afforded charred products.¹²⁹

Only a small proportion of the recently published work has been concerned with the reactions of ketones with chlorosulfonic acid. The majority of these papers are due to the investigations of Cremlyn *et al.*^{77,111,130-139} Some reactions have resulted in predictable products, while several novel reactions have been reported.

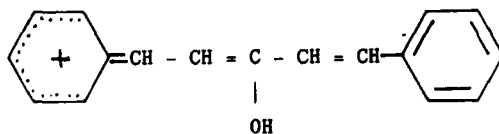
p-Methoxybenzophenone was chlorosulfonated much more readily (50°) than benzophenone (140°). The product from the latter reaction was the expected 3,3'-disulfonyl chloride¹¹¹ which was obtained in poor yield (15%). However, the use of more reagent at a slightly higher temperature afforded an improved yield (40–50%).^{111,140} The directing influence of the substituent is further illustrated in the case of α -naphthylchalcone¹³⁵ and of chalcone,¹³⁶ which, under less forcing conditions, gave the corresponding 4-sulfonyl chlorides. 4-Methoxychalcone was converted easily into the 3-sulfonyl chloride in good yield.¹³⁶ The methoxyl group thus provides ring activation despite the presence of steric factors.

In addition to electrophilic attack at the ring atoms, side-chain reaction may also occur. This is illustrated by the reaction of acetophenone.¹³² The product was claimed to be the corresponding 2, ω -disulfonyl chloride, obtained in low yield.^{140a} However, in the case of 4-substituted acetophenones, both reactions do not necessarily occur. Thus, 4-methoxyacetophenone gave the 3-sulfonyl chloride,¹⁴¹ as did 4-hydroxyacetophenone.¹⁴² The latter result is perhaps surprising in view of the 3, ω -disulfonyl chloride which was obtained from 4-methoxyacetophenone.¹⁰²

A novel cyclisation reaction occurred with propiophenone,¹⁴³ with the formation of 3-chloro-2-methylbenzothiophene-1,1-dioxide. The cyclisation of Mannich bases also proceeded smoothly.¹⁴³

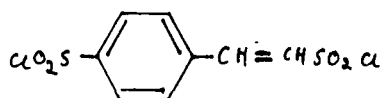


Dibenzylideneacetone was converted into the 4-sulfonyl chloride and under more forcing conditions, into the 4,4'-disulfonyl chloride.¹³⁸ The selectivity was attributed to the formation of an intermediate cation (17):



(17)

However, treatment of benzylideneacetone resulted in a novel reaction with the formation of styrene-4,β-disulfonyl chloride (17a). ω-Chlorosulfonation was proposed, as observed with acetophenone,¹³² followed by elimination of mesityl oxide.



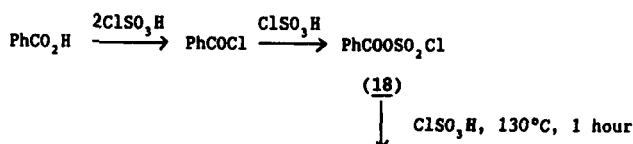
(17a)

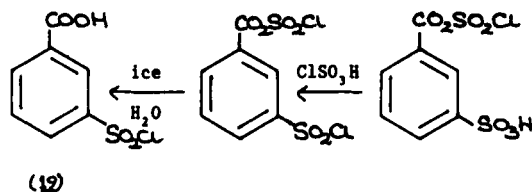
Several other benzylidene derivatives have been successfully converted into the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chlorides by reaction with chlorosulfonic acid. Examples include 5-benzylidene and 5-cinnamylidene hydantoins,¹⁴⁴ 3-benzylidenecamphor^{145,146} and 1,5-dibenzylidenecyclopentanone.^{146a}

Benzil¹³³ and substituted benzils¹³⁷ undergo a novel cyclisation reaction with the formation of substituted 3-chloro-2-phenylbenzofurans. The reaction is considered to proceed *via* initial α-chlorohydrin formation, which provides the appropriate orientation and reactivity for chlorosulfonation, followed by ring closure. 1,4-Diamino-anthraquinone behaved as expected giving the 2-sulfonic acid.¹⁴⁷ In the case of 1,5-di(*o*-anisidino)anthraquinone, the product was 1,5-di(2-methoxy-5-chloro-sulfonylanilino)anthraquinone.¹³⁰

2.6 Carboxylic Acids

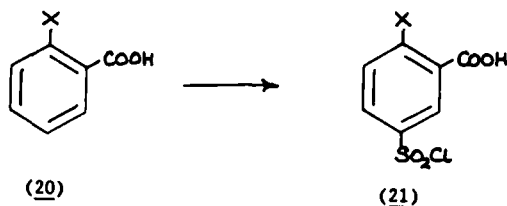
The reactions of chlorosulfonic acid with benzoic, cinnamic and phenylacetic acids were reported by Suter.¹⁴⁸ The carboxylic acid group is an electron-withdrawing substituent and consequently the chlorosulfonation of aromatic carboxylic acids generally required temperatures of more than 120°C and excess quantities of reagent. The reaction probably proceeds *via* a mixed anhydride intermediate e.g., (18) which would account for the comparatively large quantities of reagent required. In the case of benzoic acid¹⁴⁹ at least 5 equivalents of chlorosulfonic acid were needed to achieve the optimum yield of the *m*-sulfonyl chloride (19). The postulated mechanism is shown (Scheme 1):





Scheme 1

Several *o*-substituted benzoic acids (20) ($X=CH_3$, OCH_3 ,¹⁵⁰ OH ,¹⁵¹⁻¹⁵³ Cl , Br) have been reacted with chlorosulfonic acid (4–6 equivalents).¹⁴⁹ When X was an electron-donor group, chlorosulfonation occurred at 40–90°C (1–2 hours) to give the corresponding 5-sulfonyl chloride in good to excellent yields (21, 60–90%).



The presence of X as an electron-withdrawing substituent required rather more forcing conditions, (e.g., 120–130°C, 2–3 hours). For *p*-substituted acids, the yields of the 3-sulfonyl chlorides (22) were lower (50%) and when electron-withdrawing groups (e.g., chloro)¹⁵⁴ were present the chlorosulfonation required prolonged reaction (e.g., 150°C, 2 days).



Salicylic acid has been converted into the 3,5-disulfonyl chloride and the 5-bromo and 5-chloro derivatives into the corresponding 3-sulfonyl chlorides and a range of derivatives has been reported.^{151,155-157}

m-Toluic acid (23, $X=CH_3$) reacted with the chlorosulfonic acid (4 equivalents, 150°C, 2½ hours) to give a mixture of the 4- and 6-sulfonyl chlorides. The latter was claimed¹⁴⁹ to be the major product, possibly involving intramolecular rearrangement of the mixed anhydride intermediate. Cinnamic acid, due to the activating influence of the $\alpha\beta$ -alkenic double bond, reacted readily with chlorosulfonic acid at 50–60°C to give the *p*-sulfonyl chloride (60%).¹⁴⁹

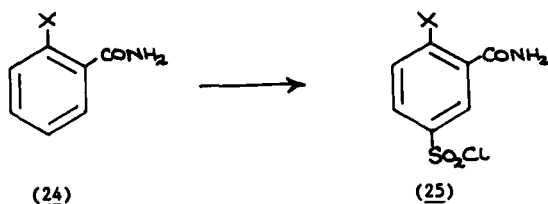
Phenoxyacetic acid was even more reactive and chlorosulfonation occurred at 0°C, but with the *o*-chloro derivative the yield of sulfonyl chloride was very low.¹⁴⁹ The chlorosulfonation of 2,4- and 2,5-dichlorophenoxyacetic acids has also been reported.¹⁵⁸

The attempted chlorosulfonation of phenylacetic acid, *m*-nitrobenzoic acid and phthalic acid was unsuccessful.¹⁴⁹

2.7 Amides and Related Compounds

2.7.1 Amides

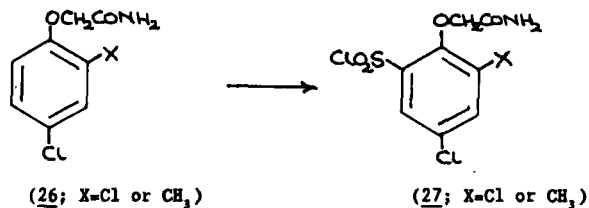
Aromatic carboxamides react with excess chlorosulfonic acid without effect on the amide (CONH_2) group, cf. carboxylic acids.¹⁴⁹ The chlorosulfonation occurs rather more easily than with the corresponding carboxylic acid, because the amido group is a less strongly electron-withdrawing substituent probably due to the slightly greater +M effect of the amino constituent of the group compared with that of OH. Amides substituted in the 2-position by electron-donor groups (e.g., (24), $\text{X}=\text{CH}_3$, OCH_3 , OH) undergo facile reaction with chlorosulfonic acid under comparatively mild conditions, (e.g., $50-70^\circ\text{C}$, 1–2 hours), to give excellent yields of the 5-sulfonyl chlorides (25)¹⁵⁹:



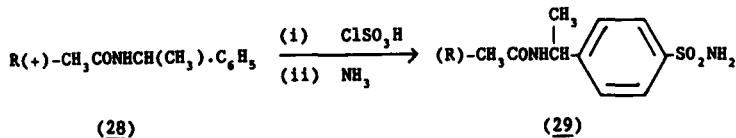
With 24 ($\text{X}=\text{OCOCH}_3$), the reaction afforded a mixture of 25 ($\text{X}=\text{OCOCH}_3$) and the corresponding hydroxy compound.¹⁵⁹ The analogous *p*-substituted amides require rather longer reaction times due to the steric effect of the substituent; thus *p*-methoxybenzamide reacted with the reagent over 4 hours to give 5-amido-2-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride.

Cinnamide reacted easily with chlorosulfonic acid at $30-50^\circ\text{C}$ to give the *p*-sulfonyl chloride due to the electron-donating effect of the π -electrons of the $\alpha\beta$ -alkenic double bond.¹⁵⁶ Substituted cinnamides, e.g., the dimethylamide and morpholidate were similarly chlorosulfonated.¹⁶⁰

Phenoxyacetamide reacted readily with chlorosulfonic acid at room temperature or at 70°C and gave an excellent yield of the *p*-sulfonyl chloride.¹⁶¹ 2,4-Dichloro- and 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxyacetamide (26) reacted with the reagent at 80°C to give moderate yields of the corresponding 6-sulfonyl chlorides (27)¹⁶¹:



1-Phenylethylacetamide (28) has been treated with chlorosulfonic acid followed by ammonia to give a low yield of the sulfonamide (29):



These sulfonamides are reported to possess anti-diabetic activity.¹⁶²

Chlorosulfonic acid is particularly useful for the conversion of acetanilide (**30**) and substituted anilides into the monosulfonyl chlorides.¹⁶³

4-(Acetamido)benzenesulfonyl chloride (**31**), prepared by the chlorosulfonation of acetanilide (**30**), is an important intermediate in the synthesis of sulfonamide anti-bacterial drugs. A great deal of work has therefore been devoted to optimising the yield of the following reaction:



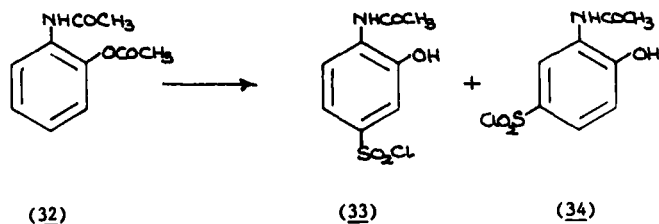
Smiles and Stewart¹⁶⁴ reported that chlorosulfonic acid (5 equivalents) reacted with (**30**) to give (**31**) in good yield. Studies of the reaction of (**30**) with the reagent (5 equivalents) in the temperature range of 0° to 100°C indicated that the most satisfactory temperature for formation of the monosulfonyl chloride (**31**) was 55–60°C; some disulfonation occurred above 40°C, polysulfonation was observed above 70°C and at 100°C (2 hours) the reaction gave no sulphone.¹⁶⁵ Improvements in the manufacture of (**31**) involved recovery of sulfuric acid¹⁶⁶; the use of more reagent (6 equivalents) at 40°C (3 hours) and subsequent treatment with dilute H₂SO₄ gave an excellent yield.¹⁶⁷ The reaction of (**30**) with chlorosulfonic acid in the presence of benzene (<95°C) gave a mixture of (**31**) and benzenesulfonic acid.¹⁶⁸ The reaction of chlorosulfonic acid with dichlorobenzenesulfonamides gave good yields of the dichlorobenzenesulfonylsulfanil chlorides at low temperatures (–10° to 10°C),^{168a} although similar chlorosulfonation of carboxylic anilides occurred at 50° to 60°C. The difference in behaviour is presumably largely a reflection of the greater strength of the C–N bond (184 kcal/mol) as compared with that of the N–S bond (111 kcal/mol).^{168b}

Side-chain substituted α -mono, α,α -di- and α,α,α -trichloroacetanilides reacted smoothly with chlorosulfonic acid (5 equivalents) at 60°C to give excellent yields of the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chlorides.¹⁶⁹ α -Bromoacetanilide-*p*-sulfonyl chloride is used as an amide-linking agent.¹⁷⁰ *p*-Methyl- α,α,α -trichloroacetanilide¹⁶⁹ reacted with the reagent at room temperature to give the 5-sulfonyl chloride (50%), but the *p*-chloro analogue did not react. The α,α -di- and α,α,α -trichlorosulfonyl chlorides reacted with dimethylamine to give the corresponding dimethylsulfonamides without displacement of the alkyl chlorine atoms. In contrast, with the α -chloro derivative both chlorine atoms were substituted.¹⁶⁹

2-, 3-Chloro, 2,5- and 2,6-dichloroacetanilides reacted with chlorosulfonic acid to give the corresponding 4-sulfonyl chlorides.¹⁷¹ The reaction became increasingly difficult due to the steric and electronic effects of the chlorine atoms. 2-Chloroacetanilide afforded a 30% yield of the sulfonyl chloride after 4 hours, but the 2,6-dichloro analogue required prolonged reaction. All attempts to chlorosulfonate 2,3-dichloroacetanilide failed, possibly due to a “buttressing effect” of the acetamido group on the 2-chlorine atom.¹⁷¹

The introduction of the electron-donating methoxyl group into acetanilide greatly facilitates chlorosulfonation. Thus 2- and 4-methoxyacetanilide reacted with chlo-

rosulfonic acid at room temperature to give excellent yields of the 5- and 3-sulfonyl chlorides¹⁰² respectively. However, 3-methoxyacetanilide gave a moderate yield of the 4-sulfonyl chloride.¹⁰² 2-Methyl, 2-methoxy and 4-methylacetanilides with chlorosulfonic acid in boiling chloroform gave good yields of the corresponding sulfonyl chlorides. Several of the derived hydrazides/hydrazones showed anti-bacterial activity.¹⁷² 2,5-Dimethoxyacetanilide reacted at 60°C to give the 4-sulfonyl chloride (53%)¹⁷¹; while prolonged reaction with a mixture of chlorosulfonic acid and thionyl chloride gave an increased yield (93%)¹⁷³; the product is used in the dye industry. 2-Acetoxyacetanilide (**32**) reacted with chlorosulfonic acid in chloroform at 50–60°C with *o*-deacetylation to give a good yield of the sulfonyl chlorides (**33**, **34**); p.m.r. spectroscopy indicated that (**33**) was the major component.

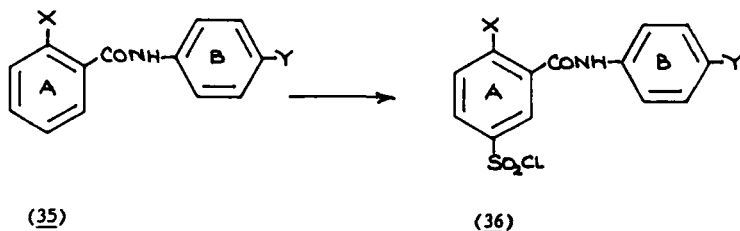


The 3-acetoxy analogue gave black tars but 4-acetoxyacetanilide afforded 5-acetoxy-2-hydroxybenzenesulfonyl chloride.¹⁷⁴

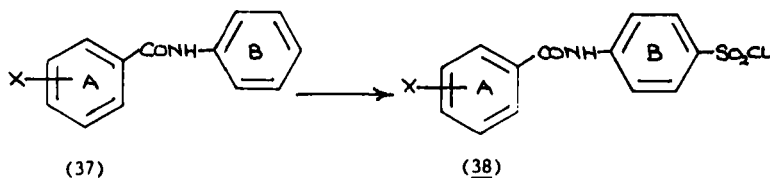
2,4-Dimethylacetanilide reacted with chlorosulfonic acid to give 5-acetamido-2,4-dimethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride¹⁷⁵ and 1-acetamidonaphthalene was converted to the 4-sulfonyl chloride (45%).^{176,177}

2.7.2 Anilides

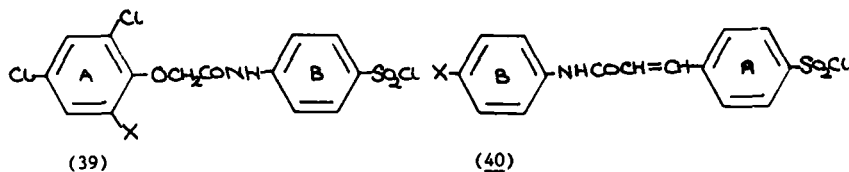
Several *o*-substituted carboxylic acid anilides (**35**; X=OH, OCH₃, Y=H or X=OH, Y=Cl) reacted with chlorosulfonic acid (4–10 equivalents) at room temperature to give high yields of the corresponding 4-sulfonyl chlorides (**36**)¹⁵²:



Under these mild conditions, chlorosulfonation occurred selectively in ring A because this is more reactive than ring B. On the other hand, benzoic acid anilide and the 4-chloro, 3-nitro and 2,4-, 2,5- and 3,4-dichloro derivatives (**37**) reacted with warm excess chlorosulfonic acid (4 equivalents) with exclusive chlorosulfonation in ring B, which is now relatively more reactive than ring A due to the adjacent amino group, to give the *p*-sulfonyl chlorides (**38**).¹⁷⁸



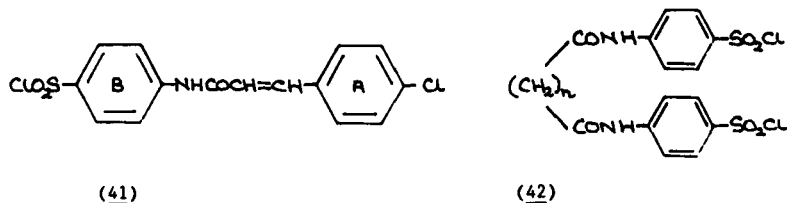
Nicotinic acid anilide reacted similarly except that more reagent was required, possibly salt formation occurred due to the presence of the basic centre.¹⁷⁸ 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetamide reacted with warm chlorosulfonic acid to give the *p*-sulfonyl chloride (39; X=H) but with more reagent (7 equivalents), the disulfonyl chloride (39; X=SO₂Cl) was isolated.¹⁷⁸



The lower susceptibility of ring A relative to ring B is probably the result of some steric hindrance imposed by *o*-substitution which is absent in ring B.

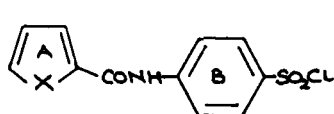
Cinnamic acid anilide reacted with a large excess of chlorosulfonic acid at room temperature to give a very high yield of the disulfonyl chloride (40; X=SO₂Cl).¹⁷⁹ The corresponding *p*-chloroanilide with a large excess of the reagent at 50°C only gave the monosulfonyl chloride (40; X=Cl) due to steric factors and deactivation of ring B.

However, *p*-chlorocinnamic acid anilide reacted rapidly (5 minutes) with chlorosulfonic acid at 50°C to give a very high yield of the monosulfonyl chloride (41),¹⁷⁹ since it is now ring A that can be more easily attacked.

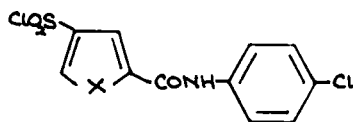


Several dicarboxylic acid dianilides have been treated with large excesses of chlorosulfonic acid to give excellent yields of the 4,4'-disulfonyl chlorides (42). The chlorosulfonation was more difficult with oxalic acid dianilide and required treatment at 80–85°C (4 hours), the yield (60%) was also appreciably lower than that of the higher homologues: malonic ($n = 1$), succinic ($n = 2$) and glutaric ($n = 3$) acid dianilides. The latter generally required reaction at 50°C (10 minutes) followed by a period at room temperature (3 hours).^{179,180} Oxalic acid dianilide disulfonyl chloride (42, $n = 0$) was difficult to characterize as its derivatives had very high melting points and low solubilities in organic solvents.

Furan and thiophene-2-carboxanilides reacted with warm chlorosulfonic acid and gave excellent yields of the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chlorides (43; X=O,S).



(43)



(44)

In both cases there was selective chlorosulfonation in the anilide ring B presumably due to the deactivating effect of the amide moiety on the heterocyclic ring, A.¹⁸¹ However, with the *p*-chloro derivatives treatment with chlorosulfonic acid under similar conditions afforded the 4-sulfonyl chlorides (44) involving selective substitution in the heterocyclic ring.¹⁸¹

2.7.3 Ureas

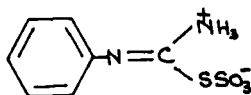
Phenylurea¹⁸² and *N,N*-dimethylphenylurea¹⁸³ (45), R=H, or CH₃) reacted easily with chlorosulfonic acid to give the *p*-sulfonyl chlorides (46).



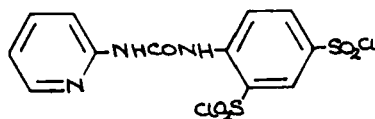
2-Substituted phenylureas reacted with chlorosulfonic acid, under similar conditions, to give the sulfonyl chlorides. 2-Chloro and 2-methylphenylurea afforded the corresponding 4-sulfonyl chlorides,¹⁸⁴ whereas the 2-methoxy derivative gave a better yield of the 5-sulfonyl chloride in which the orientation of sulfonation occurred with respect to the more strongly electron-donating methoxyl group.¹⁸⁵

When the substituents were in the *m*- or *p*-positions, chlorosulfonation was more difficult and much lower yields were obtained. For instance, 3-methylphenylurea with chlorosulfonic acid afforded the corresponding 4-sulfonyl chloride (15%); while the 4-methyl derivative gave an even lower yield of the 2- and 3-sulfonyl chlorides.¹⁸⁴ The 3- and 4-chlorophenylureas failed to give sulfonyl chlorides under comparable conditions.¹⁸³

Phenylthiourea by warming with chlorosulfonic acid behaved abnormally and gave a product considered to be the iminosulfonic acid (47) which did not react with phosphorus pentachloride.¹⁸⁵ The product could



(47)



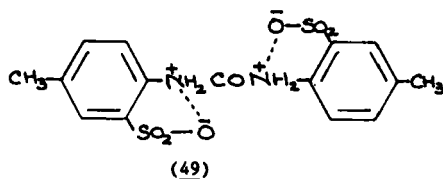
(48)

arise from sulfonation of the thiol tautomer and the proposed zwitterionic structure accounts for its inertness towards phosphorus pentachloride.

N,N'-Diphenylurea reacted normally with chlorosulfonic acid to give the 4,4'-disulfonyl chloride.¹⁸² 4-Methyldiphenylurea reacted similarly to give the 4'-sulfonyl chloride.¹⁸⁵

N-Phenyl-N'-(4-pyridyl)urea reacted normally with chlorosulfonic acid gave the 4-sulfonyl chloride¹⁸⁵; however, the 2-pyridyl analogue, afforded a low yield (20%) of the 2,4-disulfonyl chloride (48).¹⁸⁵

2,2'-Dimethyl and 3,3'-dimethyldiphenylurea were both reacted with hot chlorosulfonic acid to give moderate yields of the corresponding 4,4'-disulfonic acids, both of which were converted into the corresponding disulfonyl chlorides by heating with phosphorus pentachloride.¹⁸² The 4,4'-dimethyl analogue afforded the 2,2'-disulfonic acid (49) under similar conditions, but it did not react with phosphorus pentachloride due to zwitterion formation.



The disodium salt, which cannot exist as the zwitterion, was however converted into the 2,2'-disulfonyl chloride on heating with phosphorus pentachloride.¹⁸²

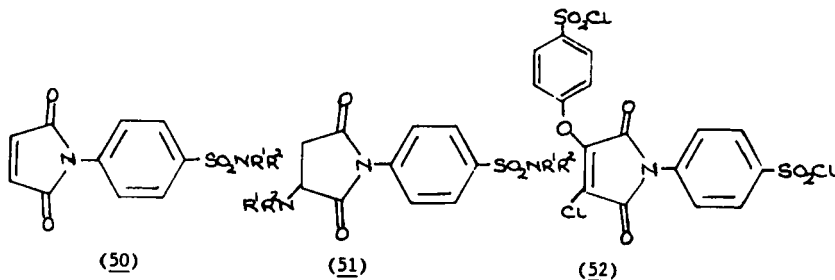
Some diarylthioureas have been treated with chlorosulfonic acid; thus N-phenyl-N'-(2-pyridyl)-N'-(2-thiazolyl)thiourea¹⁸⁵ reacted with chlorosulfonic acid to give the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chlorides.^{185,186}

2.7.4 Imides

Several N-arylmaleimides have been converted into sulfonyl chlorides by treatment with chlorosulfonic acid.

N-Phenylmaleimide reacted under mild conditions to give an excellent yield of N-(*p*-chlorosulfonylphenyl) maleimide.¹⁸⁷ Various N-arylmaleimides have been similarly chlorosulphonated¹⁸⁸ and α,α' -dichloro-N-phenylmaleimide reacted rapidly to give the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chloride (80%).¹⁸⁹

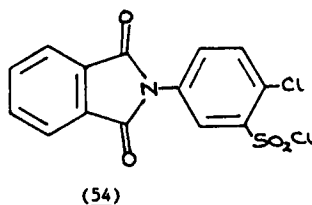
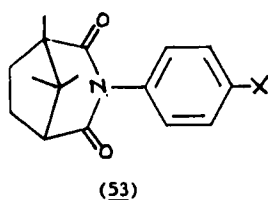
N-(*p*-Chlorosulfonylphenyl)maleimide can be used as a dienophile in Diels-Alder reactions without effect on the chlorosulfonyl moiety.¹⁹⁰ Treatment of N-(*p*-chlorosulfonylphenyl)maleimide with amines in acetonitrile generally gave a mixture of the sulfonamides (50) and (51).



The succinimide (**51**) resulted from simultaneous Michael addition to the activated alkenic double bond, the pure imido sulfonamide (**50**) was obtained by column chromatography.¹⁸⁷ Other workers¹⁹¹ reported that reaction of the sulfonyl chloride with aqueous ammonia gave the sulfonamide (**51**, $R^1=R^2=H$), while reaction with various substituted anilines afforded the succinimides (**51**, $R^1=H$, $R^2=NC_6H_4Y$). Reaction of α -chloro- α' -phenoxy-N-phenylmaleimide with a large excess of warm reagent gave the disulfonyl chloride (**52**).¹⁸⁷

N-Phenylsuccinimide reacted similarly to give the *p*-sulfonyl chloride (87%).¹⁵⁶

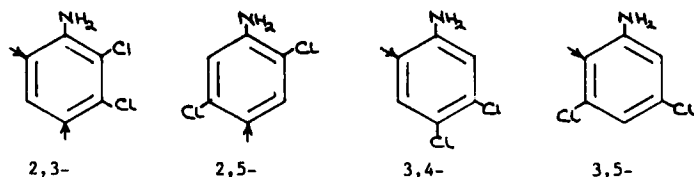
N-Phenylsuccinimide, -glutarimide and -comphorimide (**53**, $X=H$) were all converted into the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chlorides (e.g., **53**, $X=SO_2Cl$) by chlorosulfonic acid—in yields of 85, 10 and 55% respectively.¹⁹²



N-Phenylphthalimide and the 2-chloro derivative reacted similarly with chlorosulfonic acid to give the corresponding *p*-sulfonyl chlorides in excellent yields. 4-Chlorophenylphthalimide was similarly converted into the 3-sulfonyl chloride¹⁹³ (**54**).

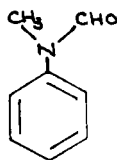
2.8 Amines

Normally aromatic amines are protected before treatment with chlorosulfonic acid, e.g., by acetylation, to avoid extensive decomposition. However, in several cases unprotected amines have given sulfonyl chlorides by direct reaction with the reagent. Sulfonation of primary amines with chlorosulfonic acid gave products which were substituted in the *o*- and/or *p*- positions with respect to the amino group.¹⁹⁴⁻¹⁹⁸



These dichloroanilines each reacted with a large excess of chlorosulfonic acid to give the sulfonyl chlorides as indicated by the arrows.¹⁹⁵ 2,5-Dichloroaniline in contrast, did not give chlorosulfonation *ortho* to the amino group,^{195,199} presumably due to steric inhibition.

Sulfonation of diphenylamine with chlorosulfonic acid in nitrobenzene at 90°C gave the 4-sulfonic acid and/or the 4,4'-disulfonic acid depending upon the reagent to substrate ratio.²⁰⁰ However, attempts to reproduce the reported preparation of



(55)

the 4,4'-disulfonyl chloride²⁰¹ were unsuccessful. Reaction of diphenylalmine with a large excess of chlorosulfonic acid at 80°C gave the 2,2',4,4'-tetrasulfonyl chloride.⁷⁷ The reaction mechanism involved initial N-sulfonation.⁷⁷

The reaction of chlorosulfonic acid with N-methylformanilide (55) gave the *p*-N-methylformylaminobenzenesulfonyl chloride.²⁰² The preparation and attempted chlorosulfonation of N,N-dimethylbenzylamine-sulfur trioxide complex were reported.²⁰³

Synthesis of 3-amino-6-methylbenzenesulfonic acid from *p*-toluidine,²⁰⁴ 2-aminobenzene-1,3,5-trisulfonic acid²⁰⁵ and 6-amino-4-methoxybenzene-1,3-disulfonyl chloride¹⁹⁸ from *m*-methoxyaniline were also reported.

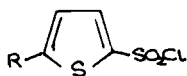
2.9 Heterocyclic compounds

Only a limited range of heterocyclic compounds has been studied. Interest has been shown in some monocyclic systems, notably with more than one hetero atom, and in several polycyclic systems.

2.9.1 Monocyclic Systems

Thiophene was converted into the 2-sulfonyl chloride in fair yield.²⁰⁶ For the few derivatives which were studied only 2-substitution was reported.²⁰⁷⁻²⁰⁹ It is interesting to note that this was the case with the 3—CH₂OCH₂CF₃ derivative,²⁰⁸ where presumably initial attack at the ether oxygen directs the course of the reaction.

The kinetics of the reaction of 5-substituted-2-thiophenesulfonyl chlorides (56) with aniline in methanol were studied²¹⁰:



(56)

(R = Me, Cl, Br, I, NO₂)

Imidazole-4-sulfonyl chloride was obtained from imidazole in good yield.²¹¹ The 4-sulfonyl chloride was also obtained from 2-(*p*-chlorophenyl)imidazole—ring substitution presumably being favoured by steric and electronic factors.²¹² The latter conclusion is supported by the formation of the 4'-sulfonyl chloride from 1-(β-phenoxyethyl)imidazole.²¹³ In this instance a mixture of chlorosulfonic acid and phosphorus pentachloride was used as the reagent.

2-Methyl-4,5-diphenyloxazole and 3,4-diphenyl-1,2,5-furazan each gave the corresponding 4',4''-disulfonyl chloride.²¹⁴ These reactions illustrate the dominance of the +M effect of the ring oxygen atom.

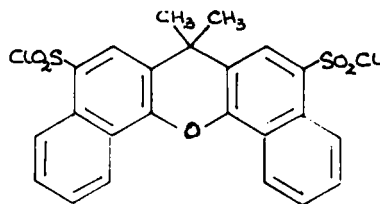
2-Amino-5-methylpyridine was converted into the 3-sulfonyl chloride under forcing conditions,²¹⁵ whereas 2,3-diphenylpyrazine gave the corresponding 3',3''-disulfonyl chloride more easily and in excellent yield.²¹⁴ These reactions demonstrate the significant deactivation caused by the ring nitrogen atoms, particularly under acidic conditions and the product from the latter reaction, the transmission of the -M effect of the ring atoms. The deactivation of the pyridine ring can be further illustrated by the conversion of an alkyl 2-aminopyridine-3-ester into the sulfamic acid salt.²¹⁶ 2-Picoline was used as an exchange reagent in the conversion of methyl anthranilate into 2-MeO₂CC₆H₄NHSO₂NHCHMe₂, *via* the intermediate sulfamic acid salt.²¹⁷

2.9.2 Polycyclic Systems

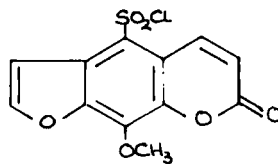
The corresponding 5-sulfonyl chloride was obtained from 2-carbomethoxy-6,7-dichloro-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran in good yield,²¹⁸ and the 5-derivative from 1-acetyl-6-chloroindoline.²¹⁹ The chlorosulfonation of carbazole²²⁰⁻²²² and 3,6-dinitro-carbazole²²³ have been successful.

Side-chain substitution was reported in the synthesis of 3-(chlorosulfonylmethyl)-1,2-dihydrobenzisoxazole.²²⁴ Benzimidazole was converted into the 5-sulfonic acid, but 2-(*p*-nitrophenyl)imidazole gave the 5-sulfonyl chloride.²²¹

Coumarin gave the 6-sulfonyl chloride,^{225,226} dimethyldinaphthopyran the bis-product, (57),²²⁷ and xanthotoxin the mono-product, (58)²²⁸:



(57)

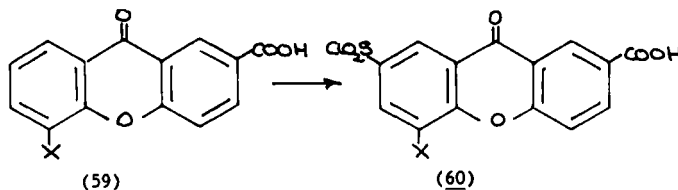


(58)

Treatment of 2-(cyanoacetyl)coumarone resulted in rearrangement and substitution, with the formation of 2-(cyanoacetyl)-3-benzofuransulfonyl chloride.²²⁹ 8-Methoxyquinoline²³⁰ and 2,4-dimethylquinoline²³¹ gave respectively the 5- and 8-sulfonyl chlorides.

6-Chloro-1,2,4-benzothiadiazine-1,1-dioxide gave the corresponding 7-sulfonyl chloride, and on reduction with stannous chloride the 7-mercapto derivative, which has application in the treatment of gout and arthritis.

Xanthone-2-carboxylic acid (59) substituted in position 5 (X = methyl, ethyl, isopropoxyl, isopropyl, *n*-octyl, methoxyl, ethoxyl, *n*-propoxyl), with chlorosulfonic acid under forcing conditions gave the

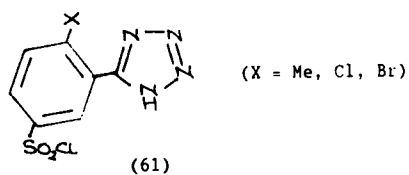


(59)

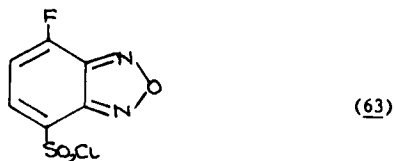
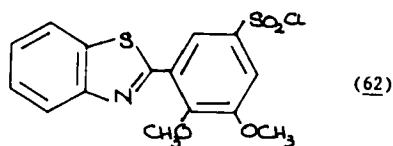
(60)

7-sulfonyl chloride (**60**).^{232,233}

A variety of 5-aryltetrazoles (**61**) reacted with chlorosulfonic acid, with sulfonation *para* to the X group²³⁴:

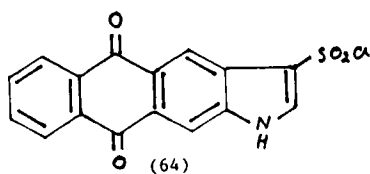


Treatment with chlorosulfonic acid of the following: 2-(2',3'-dimethoxyphenyl)benzothiazole, 4-fluoro-1,2,3-benzoxadiazole, 1,2-benzisoxazole-3-acetic acid gave 3-(2'-benzothiazolyl)-4,5-dimethoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (**62**)²³⁵ and 4-chlorosulfonyl-7-fluoro-2-benzoxadiazole (**63**).²³⁶

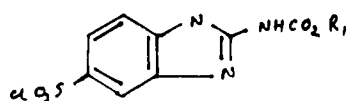


Preparation of the N-chlorosulfonamide derivative of cross-linked polystyrene made by amidation of chlorosulfonated polystyrene,^{236a} is useful in decreasing the COD of water. The preparation of polymerizable acrylamides containing sulphate groups have also been reported.^{236b}

Treatment of naphtho[2,3-f]indole-5,10-dione with chlorosulfonic acid in dioxane containing sodium sulphate gave the sulfonyl chloride²³⁷ (**64**) (63%).



Treatment of a range of benzimidazol-2-ylcarbamates ($R_1 = C_{1-4}$ alkyl) with chlorosulfonic acid at 40°C gave the 5-sulfonyl chloride^{237a} (**65**).



2.10 Miscellaneous

2.10.1 Further Observations

2-(Perhaloalkyl)anilines, (up to C_6 and 13 halo substituents) were converted into the 3,5-disulfonyl chlorides,²³⁸ whereas (2-halo-1-methyl)ethylbenzenes (Cl, Br, I) underwent 4-substitution.^{238a}

The influence of the position of substitution on the reaction rate is illustrated by substituted ethyl 2-phenoxyacetates.²³⁹ For the series studied, it was observed that the rates of substitution decreased in the order 2-Cl > 3-Cl > 4-Cl > 2,4-(Cl)₂ > 2,5-(Cl)₂.

Ferrocene has been successfully converted into the monosulfonyl chloride using a mixture of chlorosulfonic acid and phosphorus trichloride.²⁴⁰

Tetraphenoxysilane gave $(ClSO_2C_6H_4O)_4-nSiCl_n$ ($n = 0, 1, 2, 3$) which on reduction with zinc yielded 4-hydroxythiophenol.²⁴¹

Treatment of aryl isocyanates gave sulfanilic acids.^{242,243}

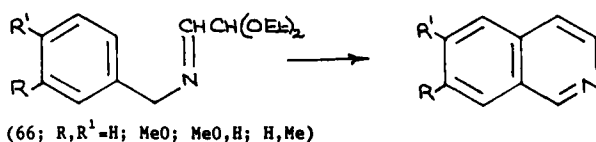
Chlorosulfonic acid was used in the formation of isoquinoline derivatives by the cyclisation of 3,4-dimethoxybenzylideneaminoacetal.²⁴⁴ Cyclic phenylsulfonium salts, useful for improving the water resistance of carboxylated polymers, were prepared by cyclisation of hydroxyalkylaryl sulfides using chlorosulfonic acid.²⁴⁵

Azobenzene by prolonged heating with a large excess of chlorosulfonic acid afforded the 4,4'-disulfonyl chloride in excellent yield.²⁴⁶ The comparatively drastic conditions required are probably due to initial protonation of the azido group in the strongly acid medium.

Diphenyl sulphone with chlorosulfonic acid (8 equivalents, 140°C, 4 hours) gave the 3,3'-disulfonyl chloride (77%).¹¹¹

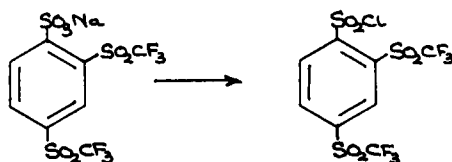
2.10.2 Other Applications of Chlorosulfonic Acid

Chlorosulfonic acid was used as a cyclising agent in the conversion of benzylimino acetals (**66**) into isoquinolines:²⁴⁷



In the alkylation of benzene,²⁴⁸ toluene,²⁴⁹ ethylbenzene²⁴⁸ and halobenzenes²⁴⁹ ($X = F, Cl, Br, I$); ethylbenzene with ethylene, propylene and but-2-ene, it proved to be a suitable catalyst. Polyalkylation was reduced and *p*-substitution increased.

Chlorosulfonic acid acts as a chlorinating agent under homolytic conditions in the conversion of nitrobenzene into pentachloronitrobenzene,^{250,251} in the presence of iodine. Chlorination under heterocyclic conditions is illustrated by the following reaction:²⁵²



In the homolytic bromination of disubstituted benzenes²⁵³ and the conversion of biphenyl into octabromobiphenyl,²⁵⁴ chlorosulfonic acid was used as solvent.

It has been used both as an oxygenating and deoxygenating reagent; thus, 1,4-bis(trichloromethyl)benzene was converted into benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid²⁵⁵ — the formation of the 2,5-dichloro derivative has also been reported.²⁵⁶ Iodoazoxybenzene was transformed into iodoazobenzene.²⁵⁷

Examples are reported^{256,258,259} of its use as a sulfating reagent.

The α -chlorination of aromatic acids of the type $\text{Ar}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ($n > 1$) can be mediated by chlorosulfonic acid in the presence of chlorine and oxygen.²⁶⁰

Chlorosulfonic acid functions as a chlorinating agent at elevated temperatures,²⁶¹ e.g., 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene by prolonged boiling with the reagent (165°C) yielded hexachlorobenzene.²⁶²

In the presence of iodine, chlorosulfonic acid has been used to chlorinate a number of aryl halides under mild conditions; thus under the optimum conditions (5 equivalents ClSO_3H , 2.5 equivalents of iodine), *p*-dichlorobenzene afforded hexachlorobenzene (82% yield). A mechanism for the chlorination reaction has been proposed involving both homolytic and heterolytic stages.⁸⁹ Aromatic iodo compounds behave abnormally with chlorosulfonic acid and generally yield chlorinated products, but not sulfonyl chlorides. Iodobenzene with the reagent (3 equivalents) at 60–80°C (3 hours) gave 4,4'-diododiphenylsulfone (53%).

3. CONCLUSIONS

In the period covered by this review, although the types of substrates studied are limited, a considerable number of investigations have been carried out. Chlorosulfonic acid is a versatile reagent and the experimental conditions can be modified appropriately depending upon the substrate. The sulfonyl chlorides which have been prepared are good synthetic intermediates which provide a wide range of useful derivatives by treatment with nucleophilic reagents.

There is no doubt that considerable scope exists for further work. Many other substrates remain to be studied and in several instances previous investigations could be extended, particularly where the optimum experimental conditions for the reactions have not been precisely determined. In addition, further work to define the mechanistic features of chlorosulfonation reactions would be most welcome.

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