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Robert J. Reynolds; J.Derek Woollins

To cite this Article Reynolds, Robert J. and Woollins, J.Derek(1997) 'Synthesis of $\text{Hg}(\text{NSO})_2$ in Liquid Ammonia', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 124: 1, 477 — 479

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426509708545663

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426509708545663>

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SYNTHESIS OF $\text{Hg}(\text{NSO})_2$ IN LIQUID AMMONIA

ROBERT J. REYNOLDS AND J. DEREK WOOLLINS.

Dept. of Chemistry, Loughborough University, Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 3TU. England.

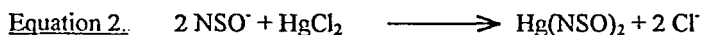
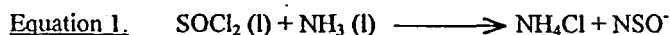
Abstract. The reaction of thionyl chloride with liquid ammonia produces the thionyl imide anion, NSO^- . Addition of metal chloride bis-phosphine complexes such as $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$ the resulting $\text{NH}_3(\text{l})$ solution has been shown to produce compounds of the type $[\text{Pt}(\text{NSO})_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$.^[1] Here, we describe the synthesis of $\text{Hg}(\text{NSO})_2$ in liquid ammonia, using HgCl_2 as the starting material.

EXPERIMENTAL.

$\text{NH}_3(\text{l})$ was obtained by condensing $\text{NH}_3(\text{g})$ into a Schlenk tube at -78°C (dry ice/acetone cold bath) under $\text{N}_2(\text{g})$. To this was added in slight excess (slightly greater than 2:1 molar ratio of $\text{SOCl}_2:\text{HgCl}_2$). The resulting solution was stirred for ten minutes to facilitate production of the NSO^- ion. The metal dichloride (0.5g, 1.84×10^{-3} mol.) was then added to the solution, an oil bubbler placed in the neck of the Schlenk tube and the $\text{N}_2(\text{g})$ supply turned-off. The solution was stirred for a further 45 minutes and then left to warm-up slowly (ca 12 hours). Residual $\text{NH}_3(\text{g})$ was removed in vacuo (ca 2 hours), and the product recovered by heating to 30°C in THF for 30 minutes in a water bath. The solution was then filtered through a celite/glass wool plug and the solvent removed in vacuo. The product was identified by i.r. spectroscopy and mass spectrometry.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

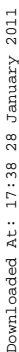
The reaction scheme is illustrated in equations 1. And 2. below.



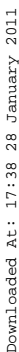
(NB. Little is known about the stoichiometry of these reactions).

By i.r. and mass spectrometry, the HgCl_2 was found to have been converted to $\text{Hg}(\text{NSO})_2$. The i.r. spectrum of the product showing bands characteristic of NSO compounds at 1261 cm^{-1} (vs) and 1070 cm^{-1} (s). EI mass spectrometry gave a spectrum identical to that which was theoretically predicted. It was not possible to obtain a Raman spectrum of the product due to its very oily nature. The i.r. and mass spectra are shown in figures 1 and 2 respectively.

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Synthesis of $\text{Hg}(\text{NSO})_2$ in liquid ammonia provides a simple alternative method of synthesis to the previously used "wet" chemistry procedure.

REFERENCES.

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