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## SYNTHESIS OF 7-ETHOXY- AND 7-FLUORO-PHENOTHIAZINES

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*Synthesis of 7-ethoxy- and 7-fluoro-phenothiazines is reported by Smiles rearrangement of 5-ethoxy- and 5-fluoro-2-formamido-2'-nitrodiphenylsulfides. The later were obtained by the formylation of 2-amino-5-ethoxy / 5-fluoro-2'-nitrodiphenylsulfides which were prepared by the condensation of 2-amino-5-ethoxy / 5-fluoro-benzenethiols with o-halonitrobenzenes.*

Phenothiazines, have been used as tranquilizer, antihistaminics,<sup>1</sup> neuroleptics,<sup>2</sup> antiemetics,<sup>3–5</sup> diuretics,<sup>6,7</sup> sedatives,<sup>8</sup> tuberculostatics,<sup>9</sup> analgesics,<sup>10</sup> and soon. Phenothiazines have also shown anti-cancer activities.<sup>11–14</sup> Therefore, it is considered worthwhile to synthesize hitherto unknown phenothiazines in order to make them available for biomedical investigations.<sup>15</sup> Synthesized phenothiazines have been characterized by IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and mass spectral analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present investigation, 7-ethoxy/7-fluoro-phenothiazines [**Va-d**] have been synthesized by Smiles rearrangement<sup>16,17</sup> of 5-ethoxy- and 5-fluoro-2-formamido-2'-nitrodiphenyl sulfides [**IVa-d**] in alcoholic potassium hydroxide solution. The formyl derivatives were prepared by the formylation of resultant diphenylsulfides [**IIIa-d**] obtained by the condensation of 2-aminobenzenethiols<sup>18–21</sup> [**I**] with

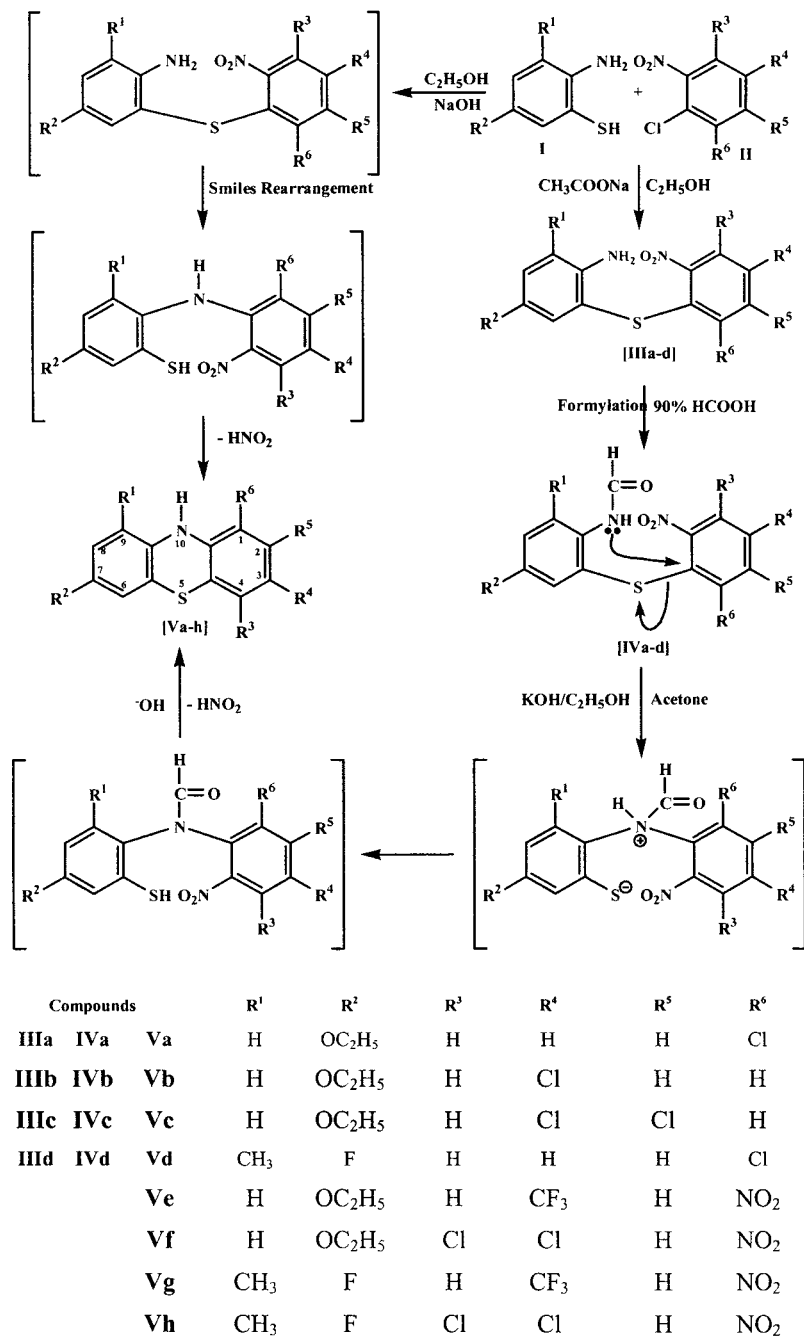
Authors express sincere thanks to CDRI, Lucknow to provide NMR and mass spectra.  
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o-halonitrobenzenes [**II**] in ethanolic sodium acetate solution. 2-Aminobenzenethiols, required in the synthesis of phenothiazines, have been prepared by the hydrolytic cleavage of 2-aminobenzothiazoles which were prepared by the action of ammonium thiocyanate<sup>22</sup> and bromine on p-phenitidine and 4-fluoro-2-methyl aniline.

A single-step synthesis of nitrophenothiazines have been achieved by the condensation of 2-aminobenzenethiol [**I**] with halonitrobenzene [**II**] containing nitro groups at both ortho positions to halogen atom in the presence of NaOH involving Smiles rearrangement and ring closure occurs in situ due to combined resonance and inductive effect of two nitro groups (Scheme 1).

The IR spectra of all the synthesized diphenylsulfides [**IIIa-d**] exhibit two peaks in the region  $3400\text{--}3340\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3320\text{--}3260\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to asymmetric and symmetric vibrations of the primary amino group. Two peaks observed in the region  $1580\text{--}1510\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1370\text{--}1330\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to the asymmetric and symmetric vibrations of nitro group respectively. The two bands in the regions  $1260\text{--}1240\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1060\text{--}1020\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appear in all diphenylsulfides having  $\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$  group due to C–O–C asymmetric and symmetric vibrations respectively. In compound [**IIIId**] two sharp peaks observed at  $1360\text{--}1350\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1170\text{--}1120\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to C–F stretching vibrations. All the synthesized diphenylsulfides exhibits a single sharp peak at  $810\text{--}760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to C–Cl stretching vibrations. The peak in the region  $1490\text{--}1420\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1370\text{--}1290\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to asymmetric and symmetric C–H deformation vibrations of  $\text{CH}_3$  group in compound [**IIIId**]. The IR spectra of all 2-formamido-diphenylsulfides resemble the spectra of their parent diphenylsulfides. However a single peak is observed in the region  $3310\text{--}3260\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to N–H stretching vibrations and an additional peak in the region  $1640\text{--}1610\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is obtained due to C=O stretching vibrations. Two bands obtained in the region  $1580\text{--}1530\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1350\text{--}1320\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to asymmetric and symmetric vibration of nitro group respectively. Compound [**IVd**] shows two peaks at  $1370\text{--}1320\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1160\text{--}1150\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to C–F stretching vibrations. The two sharp peaks at  $1250\text{--}1230\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1070\text{--}1040\text{ cm}^{-1}$  obtained in all compounds [**IVa-d**] can be attributed to C–O–C asymmetric and symmetric vibrations due to  $\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$  group respectively. All compounds [**IVa-d**] exhibits a single sharp peak at  $800\text{--}760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to C–Cl stretching vibrations.

The IR spectra of all phenothiazines exhibits a sharp peak in the region  $3430\text{--}3280\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to N–H stretching vibrations. Phenothiazines [**Va-d**] containing no nitro group at 1-position exhibit this band in the region  $3340\text{--}3240\text{ cm}^{-1}$  while in 1-nitrophenothiazines [**Ve-h**]



SCHEME 1 Synthesis of phenothiazines via Smiles rearrangement.

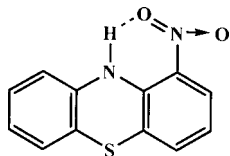
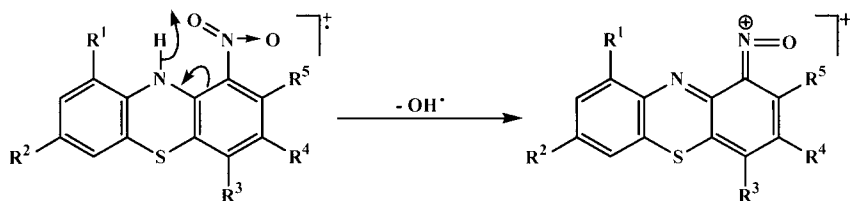


FIGURE 1

it appears at  $3380\text{--}3290\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The shift to a lower frequency region in 1-nitrophenothiazines suggests a six membered chelation of high stability through a strong ( $-\text{NH}-\text{O}=\text{N}$ ) hydrogen bonding (Figure 1). 1-Nitrophenothiazines exhibits two peaks of medium intensity in the region  $1500\text{--}1570\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1390\text{--}1320\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to asymmetric and symmetric vibrations of aromatic nitro groups. The peaks in the region  $1280\text{--}1250\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1070\text{--}1020\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to asymmetric and symmetric  $-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}$  deformation vibrations of  $-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$  group. The two peaks in the region  $1470\text{--}1430\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1350\text{--}1290\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to asymmetric and symmetric  $\text{C}-\text{H}$  deformation vibrations of  $\text{CH}_3$  group. A single sharp peak in the region  $790\text{--}720\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in compounds [**Va-d**, **Vf** and **Vh**] is due to  $\text{C}-\text{Cl}$  stretching vibrations. In compounds [**Ve** and **Vg**] two sharp peaks are observed in the region  $1350\text{--}1340\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1170\text{--}1120\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to  $\text{C}-\text{F}$  stretching vibrations of  $\text{CF}_3$  group.

In NMR spectra phenothiazines without a nitro group at 1-position exhibit a single peak in the region  $\delta\ 9.214\text{--}8.81$  due to  $\text{N}-\text{H}$  proton which is shifted to  $\delta\ 9.68\text{--}9.35$  in 1-nitrophenothiazines. The shifting of this peak towards down field in 1-nitrophenothiazines is ascribed to intramolecular hydrogen bonding (as  $-\text{NH}-\text{O}=\text{N}$ ) which has been also suggested by infrared spectra. All the synthesized phenothiazines exhibit multiplets in the region  $\delta\ 8.48\text{--}6.64$  due to aromatic protons. A singlet is observed in region  $\delta\ 2.038\text{--}2.20$  due to  $\text{CH}_3$  protons at  $\text{C}_9$ . A quartet in the region  $\delta\ 2.96\text{--}2.21$  and triplet centred in the region  $\delta\ 1.62\text{--}0.82$  are observed due to methylene and methyl protons of ethoxy group respectively.

Molecular ion peaks are in accordance with their molecular weights. 1-Nitrophenothiazines have exhibited the characteristics of an aromatic nitro group<sup>10</sup> in the fragmentation besides the other fragmentations caused by different substituents. Moieties  $\text{M}^+-30$ ,  $\text{M}^+-46$  and  $\text{M}^+-47$  are observed with variable intensity in 1-nitrophenothiazines and are ascribed to the loss of  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{HNO}_2$  respectively. 1-Nitrophenothiazines exhibit a peak at  $\text{M}^+-17$  which is assigned to the loss of  $\text{OH}^\cdot$  radical by Mc-Lafferty rearrangement<sup>23-25</sup> as shown in (Scheme 2).



SCHEME 2

## EXPERIMENTAL

All the melting points are uncorrected. The purity was checked by thin layer chromatography and characterized by spectral studies. The infrared spectra were recorded on FT-IR spectrometer. MAGNA-IR 550, NICOLET using potassium bromide discs.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker WM-400 (400 MHz FT-NMR) spectrometers (chemical shift are in  $\delta$  ppm using TMS as internal standard), the mass spectra were recorded on Jeol D-300 spectrometer using electron ionization technique. Physical data of synthesized compounds are summarized in Table I.

### Preparation of 2-Amino-5-ethoxy/5-fluoro-2'-nitrodiphenylsulfides (IIIa-d)

2-Amino-5-ethoxy/5-fluorobenzenethiol [**I**, 0.01 mmol] was dissolved in ethanol (20 ml) containing anhydrous sodium acetate (0.01 mmol) and halonitrobenzene<sup>26</sup> (**II**; 0.01 mmol) in ethanol (10 ml) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 h, concentrated, and cooled in an ice bath overnight. The solid separated out was filtered and washed with 30% ethanol. Crystallization from methanol afforded the desired product. Physical data are recorded in Table I.

### Preparation of 5-Ethoxy/5-fluoro-2-formamido-2'-nitrodiphenylsulfides (IVa-d)

A mixture of diphenylsulfide (**IIIa-c**, 0.01 mmol) and 90% formic acid (20 ml) was refluxed for 4 h. The contents were poured into a beaker containing crushed ice. The solid separated out was filtered and washed with water until the filtrate was neutral and crystallized from benzene/methanol.

TABLE I Physical Data (Compounds III-V)

Compound						m.p. °(C)	Yield (%)	Molecular formula	% found (Cald.)		
R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>				C	H	N
IIIa	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	H	Cl	98	54	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SCl	51.82 (51.77)	4.05 (4.03)	8.50 (8.63)
IIIb	H	OC <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	H	H	86	85	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SCl	51.82 (51.77)	4.02 (4.03)	8.57 (8.63)
IIIc	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	Cl	H	153	29	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SCl <sub>2</sub>	46.55 (46.81)	3.39 (3.37)	7.78 (7.80)
IIId	CH <sub>3</sub>	F	H	H	Cl	111	75	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> SClF	49.88 (49.92)	3.20 (3.22)	9.05 (8.96)
IVa	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	H	Cl	127	92	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> SCl	51.10 (51.07)	3.68 (3.71)	7.92 (7.94)
IVb	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	Cl	H	128	80	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> SCl	51.16 (51.07)	3.72 (3.71)	7.90 (7.94)
IVc	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	Cl	H	131	73	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> SCl <sub>2</sub>	46.44 (46.52)	3.09 (3.12)	7.26 (7.23)
IVd	CH <sub>3</sub>	F	H	H	Cl	27	49	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SClF	49.60 (49.35)	2.92 (2.96)	8.28 (8.22)
Va	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	H	Cl	83	80	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>12</sub> NOSCl	60.54 (60.54)	4.38 (4.35)	5.02 (5.04)
Vb	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	Cl	H	142	83	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>12</sub> NOSCl	60.41 (60.54)	4.38 (4.35)	5.01 (5.04)
Vc	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	Cl	H	115	65	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NOSCl <sub>2</sub>	53.74 (53.86)	3.57 (3.55)	4.49 (4.49)
Vd	CH <sub>3</sub>	F	H	H	Cl	126	78	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NSClF	58.58 (58.76)	3.38 (3.41)	5.25 (5.27)
Ve	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	CF <sub>3</sub>	H	146	89	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SF <sub>3</sub>	50.61 (50.56)	3.12 (3.11)	7.80 (7.86)
Vf	H	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Cl	Cl	H	172	31	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SCl <sub>2</sub>	47.14 (47.07)	2.80 (2.82)	7.84 (7.84)
Vg	CH <sub>3</sub>	F	H	CF <sub>3</sub>	H	114	79	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> SF <sub>4</sub>	48.59 (48.84)	2.30 (2.34)	8.12 (8.14)
Vh	CH <sub>3</sub>	F	Cl	Cl	H	178	44	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>7</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> SCl <sub>2</sub> F	45.36 (45.23)	2.03 (2.04)	8.10 (8.12)

## Preparation of 7-Ethoxy and 7-Fluorophenothiazines (Va–d)

To the refluxing solution of formyl derivatives (**IVa–d**; 0.01 mmol) in acetone (15 ml) was added an alcoholic solution of potassium hydroxide (0.2 g in 5 ml ethanol). The contents were heated for .5 h. A second portion of potassium hydroxide (0.2 mmol in 5 ml ethanol) was added to the reaction mixture and refluxed for 2 h. The contents were poured into a beaker containing crushed ice. The solid separate out was filtered, washed with cold water, and finally washed with 30% ethanol. Crystallization from methanol/benzene afforded phenothiazines. The physical data of synthesized phenothiazines are tabulated in Table I.

## Preparation of 1-Nitrophenothiazines (Ve–h)

To a stirred suspension of halonitrobenzene (2, 0.01 mmol), 2-amino-5-ethoxybenzenethiol (**I**, 0.01 mmol), sodium hydroxide (0.01 mmol) and absolute ethanol (20 ml) was refluxed for 2 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated on water bath, cooled down, and filtered. The solid separated out was washed with hot water and 30% ethanol. The crystallization from methanol/acetone afforded 1/9-nitrophenothiazines. Physical data are included in Table I.

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