

The arylamino-ethanols have been found to unite with the aryl-iso-thiocyanates and isocyanates and from the ureas thus obtained have been synthesized thiazolidines and oxazolidines of known structure.

In like manner the aryl-amino-propanols gave thio-ureas, which under the influence of acids, condensed to a 6-membered thiazane ring.

The α -arylamino- β -hydroxy- γ -chloropropanes combined with mustard oils and formed the 5-hydroxy-thiazanes.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE BUREAU OF MINES, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR]

THE ESTIMATION OF ALIPHATIC NITRATE ESTERS IN THE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN NITRO-AROMATIC COMPOUNDS¹

BY WILBERT J. HUFF² AND RICHARD D. LEITCH³

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Storm,⁴ in a paper from this Laboratory, has shown that glycerine trinitrate in the presence of mononitro compounds cannot be estimated by means of the nitrometer, since the mononitro aromatic substance is converted into the dinitro compound, and the reading is correspondingly low.

To overcome this difficulty, Hyde,⁵ in another paper from this Laboratory, proposed the separation of the glycerine trinitrate from the nitro derivative by treatment with immiscible solvents, one phase of which was carbon disulfide, while the second phase was a mixture of 75 parts of acetic acid and 25 parts of water. The technique involved in this method is so exacting, however, that it has apparently never been widely used and in this Laboratory is at present practically abandoned.

We have made preliminary experiments which appear to promise a convenient solution for this problem. Since it now appears that neither of us will have an opportunity to complete the study in the near future, we are reporting the results as they stand, with suggestions for further experiments.

Essentially, the method is that developed at the Kent Chemical Laboratory of Yale University by I. K. Phelps⁶ for the estimation of inorganic nitrates.

The apparatus employed consisted of a 250 cc. Kjeldahl flask carrying a tight 2-holed rubber stopper in which was inserted a long-stemmed separatory funnel whose tip was drawn to a capillary so that it always stood full of liquid. An 8 mm. tube carrying a bulb to prevent splashing was also inserted in this stopper. This tube was bent twice at right angles and

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² Explosives Chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, prior to August 2, 1920.

³ Junior Chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines.

⁴ Storm, *Eighth Inter. Cong. Appl. Chem.*, **4**, 117 (1912).

⁵ Hyde, *THIS JOURNAL*, **35**, 1173 (1913).

⁶ Phelps, *Am. J. Sci.*, [4] **14**, 440 (1902). Gooch, "Methods of Chemical Analysis," John Wiley and Sons Co., 1912, p. 259.

1 cc. of KMnO_4 solution = 0.005018 g. of glycerine trinitrate = 0.004996 g. of mannite hexanitrate.

These results show conclusively that no important interference with the nitric-acid-ferrous-iron reaction is interposed by the organic matter present, and the method appears sufficiently promising to permit its use in the general estimation of aliphatic nitrate esters by those laboratories which do not have a nitrometer conveniently at hand.

It will be noted that the method gave low results with glycerine trinitrate, while with the mannite hexanitrate the results correspond closely with the calculated results. Glycerine trinitrate has an appreciable vapor tension⁷ at 100° and part of this loss, at least, may have been due to the vaporization of the ester in steam before it was completely hydrolyzed. If so, this error could probably be eliminated by introducing the sample into a cold reaction mixture, followed by the gradual elevation of the reaction temperature. To insure absence of oxidation it would of course be necessary to replace the air by an inert gas.

Titration of the residual ferrous iron with potassium permanganate is impossible when the mixture contains nitro compounds which develop interfering colors, notably trinitrotoluene. Though not investigated, this difficulty may apparently be diminished or possibly completely overcome by estimating the ferric iron through reduction by hydrogen iodide in acid solution, since the color change, from starch blue to the acid ferrous iron, should not be seriously affected by the yellow-to-red shades imparted by the interfering nitro compound.

Summary

Aliphatic nitrate esters may be estimated in the presence of certain nitro aromatic compounds by reduction with ferrous sulfate in excess, followed by titration of the unoxidized ferrous salt. A procedure sufficiently promising to permit its general use is described, together with suggestions for further experiments.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS]

THE PREPARATION OF 1,4-DIHALOGEN DERIVATIVES OF BUTANE

BY C. S. MARVEL AND A. L. TANENBAUM

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The 1,4-dihalozen derivatives of butane are reagents that would be used more frequently in the organic laboratory if they were available. Several methods for their preparation have appeared in the literature but all are difficult to carry out. Probably the best method heretofore developed is that of J. von Braun for the preparation of tetramethylene bromide by splitting benzoyl pyrrolidine with phosphorus pentabromide.¹ This

⁷ Marshall, "Explosives," P. Blakiston's Sons and Co., 1917, p. 735.

¹ von Braun, *Ber.*, **39**, 4119-25 (1906).