

Diazoamino Coupling of a 4-Sulfobenzenediazonium Salt with Some Cyclic Amines

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Abstract: Preparation of several novel potassium salts of 4-substituted aminoazobenzenesulfonic acids by the simple and convenient reaction of insoluble 4-sulfobenzenediazonium chloride with some (hetero)cyclic amines of various ring sizes is reported. The compounds obtained have shown potential antiinflammatory activity in biological testing.

Key words: amines, diazoamino coupling, 4-sulfobenzenediazonium chloride, triazenes

Introduction

Aromatic aminoazo derivatives or triazenes represent a stable aryl diazonium ion source and are thus a class of nitrogen-containing compounds useful for synthetic transformations [1]. In a well-known classical synthesis the aromatic diazoamino system is formed in the reaction between a diazonium cation and the nucleophilic nitrogen atom of an amine. Usually the diazonium salt involved is not isolated, and an acidic aqueous solution of this reagent is exposed directly to the amine at low temperature in the presence of an excess of base to neutralize the acid used for diazotation. However, such diazoamino couplings are frequently accompanied by side reactions, e.g. C-couplings, decomposition of the diazonium salt, etc., leading to formation of multiple products and low yields [2].

Modifications of this synthetic procedure, for example, synthesis on an ion-exchange resin support, have been proposed in order to overcome these complications [3]. These syntheses are further complicated when the aryl diazonium salt is insoluble in water and consequently the coupling reaction has to be performed in a suspension. For example, the syntheses of the sodium salts of 2-, 3-, and 4-(3,3-dimethyltriazeno)benzenesulfonic acid [2] require prior isolation and purification of the corresponding diazonium fluoroborates or fluorophosphates which subsequently are added to a cooled solution of dimethylamine in water under a stream of nitrogen. The products were obtained only after saturation of the reaction mixtures with carbon dioxide. As a result of all this, more convenient methods for the synthesis of novel compounds of this class are highly desirable.

In addition, aromatic triazenes are of considerable interest for their reported biological activities, which include antitumour [4,5], antiinflammatory [6,7] and other important properties. Some aminoazo derivatives are of considerable value due to their selective antimetastatic effects and low toxicity [4,8]. In recent years this class of compounds has also received attention in the search for potential HIV-1 inhibitors [9]. The sodium salt of 4-(3,3-dimethyltriazeno)benzenesulfonic acid has been found to possess strong antineoplastic activity [10], equivalent to that of the clinically used antitumour drug Dacarbazine (DTIC[®]). Moreover, it also shows strong antiinflammatory action on experimental oedema [6]. Considering all this, the preparation water-soluble compounds with a cyclic aminoazo system bearing a sulfo group in a benzene ring was deemed to be of practical interest.

Results and Discussion

Herein we report the preparation of several novel potassium salts of substituted 4-aminoazobenzenesulfonic acids using a simple and convenient method, namely the reaction of insoluble 4-sulfo-benzenediazonium chloride with heterocyclic and cyclic amines of various ring sizes, i.e. pyrrolidine, piperidine, hexamethyleneimine, morpholine, N-methylpiperazine and piperazine. This synthetic route is represented in Scheme 1.

4-Sulfo-benzenediazonium chloride (DS-SO₃H) was obtained by diazotization of sulfanilic acid with NaNO₂ in dilute hydrochloric acid according to a published procedure [11]. The precipitated DS-SO₃H was separated from the diazotation mixture by filtration, washed successively with cold water, acetone, and ether, air dried and stored in a refrigerator. To complete the reaction sequence the DS-SO₃H was slurried in water and treated with the appropriate amine. The reaction requires three equivalents of amine: as a reaction component, for binding of liberated HCl, and for the formation of the sulfonic acid salt. However, after addition of 3 equivalents of an appropriate amine to a suspension of DS-SO₃H in water at room temperature and heating to 50°C the reaction mixture turns red, indicating the occurrence of a C-coupling side reaction. This side reaction could be avoided by increasing the ratio of the amine component, thus the highest yields of the target compounds were obtained by coupling the amines with DS-SO₃H in a 5:1 ratio at 50°C.

Products were isolated as potassium salts after addition of KOH in methanol to the reaction mixtures. The precipitated crystals were of high purity and additional crystallization from methanol-water or water afforded analytically pure samples of products 1-6. It should be mentioned that in the

Table 1. Physical and spectral properties of the potassium salts of N,N-disubstituted aminoazobenzenesulfonic acids 1-7.

Compound	Yield, %	M. p., °C	¹ H-NMR, δ, ppm.	Raman spectra, Δν(N=N), cm ⁻¹
1	63	277-280	7.39 and 7.78 (4H, two d, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 3.60 (4H, br.s, CH ₂ NCH ₂), 1.96 (4H, m, (CH ₂) ₂)	1423
2	65	260-263	7.42 and 7.81 (4H, two d, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 3.66 (4H, br s, CH ₂ NCH ₂), 1.58 (6H, br.s, (CH ₂) ₃)	1433
3	60	267-270	7.42 and 7.77 (4H, two d, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 3.66 and 3.91 (4H, two t, CH ₂ NCH ₂), 1.40-2.00 (8H, m, (CH ₂) ₄)	1420
4	73	272-274	7.46 and 7.80 (4H, two dd, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 3.82 (4H, s, (CH ₂)O(CH ₂))	1436
5	58	264-267	7.47 and 7.79 (4H, two d, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 3.80 (4H, t, N-N(CH ₂)), 2.61 (4H, t, CH ₂ NCH ₂), 2.30 (3H, s, CH ₃)	1435
6	57	296-298	7.55 and 7.86 (4H, two d, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 4.08 (8H, s, CH ₂)	1463
7	48	275-277	7.46 and 7.81 (4H, two d, J=9 Hz, C ₆ H ₄), 3.74 (4H, t, =N-N(CH ₂)), 2.89 (4H, t, CH ₂ NHCH ₂)	1435 IR ν(N-H), 3293cm ⁻¹

Several of the synthesized compounds showed promising activity in preliminary tests of anti-inflammatory action on carrageenin- and bentonite-induced oedema in rats according to reported protocols [14,15].

Conclusions

A simple and convenient method was developed for the synthesis of several novel water-soluble potassium salts of 4-substituted aminoazobenzenesulfonic acids employing the reaction of insoluble 4-sulfobenzene diazonium chloride with cyclic and heterocyclic amines of various ring sizes. The compounds obtained have shown some potential activity in biological testing.

Experimental

General

All melting points are uncorrected. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL 90 instrument in D₂O, using 2,2-dimethyl-2-silapentane-5-sulfonic acid (DSS) as an internal standard. Infrared spectra

were recorded for KBr disks on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum GX FT-IR spectrometer, and Raman spectra of crystals were acquired on a Perkin-Elmer NIR Spectrum GX FT-Raman spectrometer. FT-Raman spectra were excited with the Nd-YAG laser operating at 1064 nm wavelength. All compounds gave satisfactory microanalysis ($\pm 0.3\%$ for C, H, N and S, and $\pm 1.0\%$ for K).

General procedure for the preparation of the potassium salts of N,N-disubstituted 4-aminoazobenzenesulfonic acids (1-6). The appropriate amine (0.05 mol) was added at room temperature to a stirred suspension of 4-sulfobenzenediazonium chloride (0.01 mol) in water (20 mL) and stirring was continued for 10 min. The reaction temperature was then gradually raised to 50 °C, and after 10 minutes a clear faintly yellow solution was obtained. The solution was then treated with KOH (0.1 mol) in methanol (20 mL) and this mixture was heated to reflux and then left to crystallize. Crystals were collected by filtration, washed with acetone and recrystallized from methanol-water (compounds **1-5**) or water (compound **6**).

Potassium salt of 4-(piperazin-1-ylazo)benzenesulfonic acid (7). Piperazine (0.05 mol) was dissolved in methanol (40 mL) and 4-sulfobenzenediazonium chloride (0.01 mol) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 10 min. The solution was then filtered and KOH (0.035 mol) in water (10 mL) was added to the filtrate. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux and then left to crystallize. The product was filtered off and recrystallized from 1:1 methanol-water to give the title compound as pale yellow crystals.

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Sample Availability: Available from the authors.