# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE REACTIONS OF NITROSOPHENOL AND N-CHLOROQUINONIMINE WITH AROMATIC AMINES

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A comparative study of the reactions of nitrosophenol and n-chloroquinonimine with aromatic amines by Carleton Edgar Curran

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# **CARLETON EDGAR CURRAN**

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE REACTIONS OF NITROSOPHENOL AND N-CHLOROQUINONIMINE WITH AROMATIC AMINES

Trieste

## A Comparative Study of the Reactions of Nitrosophenol and N-Chloroquinonimine with Aromatic Amines

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## DISSERTATION

PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIRE-MENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

BY

### CARLETON EDGAR CURRAN Dupont Fellow, 1918-19, 1919-20

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY 1921

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### INTRODUCTION

Nitrosophenol may be caused to react with primary aromatic amine without difficulty. The variety and character of the condensation products, however, do not serve to indicate clearly the manner in which the reaction proceeds. Indeed, consideration of the facts from varying standpoints might lead to opposite interpretations.

The tautomerism displayed by nitrosophenol, which under varying conditions may function either as a true phenol or as quinone oxime, suggests at least three very interesting possible reactions:

 Nitrosophenol, acting as a true phenol, may condense with the amine to produce an azophenol:

 $\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{N} \mathbf{H}_2 + \mathbf{O} : \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{C}_6 \mathbf{H}_4 \cdot \mathbf{O} \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{N} : \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{C}_6 \mathbf{H}_4 \cdot \mathbf{O} \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{H}_2 \mathbf{O}$ 

(2) With nitrosophenol functioning as an oxime condensation might conceivably result in the combination of a hydrogen atom from the amine nucleus with the hydroxyl of the oxime group, forming an indophenol. Compounds of this type are important as dyestuffs.

 $H_{2}N.R.H + HON : C_{6}H_{4} : O = H_{2}N.R.N : C_{6}H_{4} : O + H_{2}O.$ 

(3) Or again, condensation might be effected in such a manner as to produce a quinone hydrazone:

 $R.NH_2 + HON : C_4H_4 : O = R.NH.N : C_4H_4 : O + H_2O.$ 

Experimental evidence may be adduced to support each of these possible reactions.

It has long been known that certain tertiary aromatic amines will react in accordance with reaction (2), indophenols or indamines being formed. A similar reaction is said to be employed by commercial dye manufacturers wherein primary amines and nitroso compounds are used as raw materials. However, reviewing the literature of previous investigations discloses very little information relative to such reactions. The object of this work has been, therefore, to study the condensation taking place between nitrosophenol and the aromatic amines, especially aniline and p-toluidine, in order to discover the mechanism of the reaction.

Three lines of experimental work were found necessary in the course of the investigation, as follows:

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- 1. A study of the mineral acid salts of phenylazophenol (hydroxyazobenzene), and their reaction with aniline.
- A study of the course of the reaction between nitrosophenol and the aromatic amines, with the isolation and identification of the various reaction products.
- 3. A comparative study of the reaction between N-chloroquinonimine (quinonechlorimide) and the aromatic amines, because of the similarity of constitution of the former to that of nitrosophenol.

In the following a brief outline of the historical development of each of these fields is given. A statement of the results of the experimental work follows, together with conclusions to be drawn therefrom. A report of the actual experimental methods and data completes the paper.

### I

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SALTS OF PHENYLAZOPHENOL

The commonly accepted configuration for phenylazophenol follows from its synthesis by the reaction of diazonium salts with phenol in alkaline solution<sup>1</sup> and the ready formation of its esters with the various acylating and alkylating reagents <sup>2</sup>

 $C_{6}H_{5}N:NX + H.C_{6}H_{0}OH = C_{6}H_{5}N:NC_{6}H_{4}OH + HX$ 

 $C_{6}H_{8}N:NC_{6}H_{4}OH + C_{6}H_{5}COCl = C_{6}H_{6}N:NC_{6}H_{4}OCOC_{6}H_{5} + HCl$ This ester is readily hydrolyzed to phenylazophenol according to the reaction :

 $C_{6}H_{5}N:NC_{6}H_{*}O.COC_{6}H_{5} + H_{5}O = C_{6}H_{5}N:NC_{6}H_{4}OH + C_{6}H_{5}CO_{2}H$ 

However, investigations of the acylated hydrazones of quinone have had a considerable part in determining the true nature of phenylazophenol. Zincke<sup>3</sup> pointed out that free phenylhydrazine, or its salts, reacts with quinone with decomposition and evolution of gases, although the following reaction might be expected:

 $O: C_{6}H_{4}: O + H_{2}NNH.C_{6}H_{5} = [O: C_{6}H_{4}: NNH.C_{6}H_{5}] + H_{2}O$  (?) When certain substituted hydrazines, *i. e.*, the unsymmetrical acyl derivatives, are used normal reaction products are obtained:

 $O: C_6H_4: O + C_6H_6.N(COC_6H_6)NH_2 = C_6H_6.N(COC_6H_6)N: C_6H_4: O + H_2O$ Griess, Ann. 137, 84 (1866); Kekule and Hidegh, Ber. 3, 234 (1870); Dimroth, *ibid.* 35, 2862.

<sup>2</sup>Tschirwinsky, Ber. 6, 561 (1873); McPherson, Am. Chem. J. 22, 364 (1899). <sup>3</sup>Zincke, Ber. 16, 1563 (1883). These compounds, which are isomeric with the true esters of phenylazophenol mentioned above, hydrolyze easily to phenylazophenol:  $C_{6}H_{6}.N(COC_{6}H_{6})N:C_{6}H_{4}:O + H_{2}O = C_{6}H_{6}N:NC_{6}H_{4}OH + C_{6}H_{6}CO_{2}H$ 

The relationship existing between these unsymmetrical acylphenylhydrazones and the true esters of phenylazophenol was largely cleared up by the work of McPherson and others<sup>1</sup> by synthesis and comparison of the two isomeric forms. Willstätter and Veraguth<sup>2</sup> accomplished the direct conversion of one form to the other by the action of powdered potassium hydroxide upon quinone  $\alpha$ -benzoylphenylhydrazone in absolute ether:

 $C_{6}H_{5}N(COC_{6}H_{5})N:C_{6}H_{4}:O + KOH ether = C_{6}H_{5}N:NC_{6}H_{4}O.COC_{6}H_{5}$ 

The results of these investigations proved that the acyl ester of phenylazophenol and quinone  $\alpha$ -acylphenylhydrazone are tautomers. Similar reasoning may be applicable in explaining the true nature of phenylazophenol. That is, phenylazophenol is tautomeric with quinone phenylhydrazone. The relationship may be best shown by the following formulas:

## $\begin{array}{c} C_{6}H_{5}CO.OC_{6}H_{*}N:NC_{6}H_{5} \swarrow O: C_{6}H_{*}:NN(COC_{6}H_{5}).C_{6}H_{5} \\ HOC_{6}H_{*}N:NC_{6}H_{5} \swarrow O: C_{6}H_{4}:NNHC_{6}H_{5} \end{array}$

This tautomeric explanation is especially interesting in the light of investigations of the action of concentrated mineral acids upon phenylazophenol.

Hantzsch<sup>3</sup> has prepared and isolated the hydrochloride of phenylazophenol and has assigned to it the configuration of a quinone phenylhydrazone:

## C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>NH,N:C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>;O H Cl

It has been noticed by McPherson and Dubois' that a similar salt is formed either by the action of sulfuric acid upon phenylazophenol or of  $\alpha$ -benzoylhydrazine sulfate with quinone:

<sup>1</sup>McPherson, Am. Chem. J. 22, 364 (1899); McPherson and Gore, *ibid.* 25, 485 (1901); McPherson and Dubois, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 30, 816 (1908); McPherson and Fischer, *ibid.* 22, 141 (1900).

\* Willstätter and Veraguth, Ber. 40, 1432 (1907).

<sup>1</sup>Hantzsch, *ibid.* 32, 3091 (1899).

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McPherson and Dubois, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 30, 816 (1908).

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