

Article

Direct Exchange of Oxygen and Selenium Atoms in the 1,2,5-Oxadiazoles and 1,2,5-Selenadiazoles by Action of Sulfur Monochloride

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Abstract: A short synthetic approach to fused 1,2,5-thiadiazoles from the corresponding 1,2,5-oxadiazoles and 1,2,5-selenadiazoles has been developed. Mono- and bis(1,2,5-thiadiazoles) were selectively obtained in high yields. The pathways for these novel reactions were discussed.

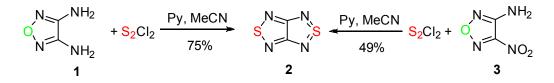
Keywords: 1,2,5-thiadiazoles; 1,2,5-oxadiazoles; 1,2,5-selenadiazoles; sulfur monochloride

1. Introduction

1,2,5-Thiadiazoles and particularly their benzo-fused derivatives have been known for many years, and their synthesis and applications in various branches of technology and medicine were extensively investigated and reviewed [1–5]. Recently, they were found to be an efficient electron acceptor and were used as the building blocks of many actual or potential molecule-based functional materials for organic electronics and spintronics [6–12]. Although methods for the preparation of fused 1,2,5-thiadiazoles are numerous and well elaborated [2,3,5], there is still a lack of suitable preparative approaches to many interesting derivatives containing electron-deficient heterocycles or electron-withdrawing groups.

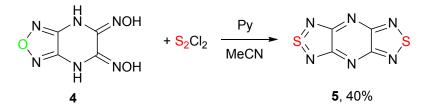
A few years ago 3,4-diamino-1,2,5-oxadiazole 1 was found to react with sulfur monochloride and pyridine in acetonitrile and gave, unexpectedly, [1,2,5]thiadiazolo[3,4-c][1,2,5]thiadiazole 2 in high

yield (Scheme 1) [10]. The main feature of this transformation is an exchange of the oxygen atom in the 1,2,5-oxadiazole ring with a sulfur atom in the reaction with sulfur monochloride. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first example of this unusual reaction. Later on, it was shown that another oxadiazole derivative, 4-amino-3-nitro-1,2,5-oxadiazole **3**, can undergo a similar transformation with S_2Cl_2 in lower yield [13].



Scheme 1. Synthesis of [1,2,5]thiadiazolo[3,4-*c*][1,2,5]thiadiazole 2.

Recently, it was discovered that under similar conditions, (5Z,6Z)-[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-b]pyrazine-5,6(4*H*,7*H*)-dione dioxime **4** gave tricyclic bis([1,2,5]thiadiazolo)-[3,4-b;3',4'-e]pyrazine **5** in moderate yield (Scheme 2). In that case, three reactions occurred: exchange of an oxygen atom in a 1,2,5-oxadiazole ring by a sulfur atom, formation of thiadiazole ring from dioxime, and aromatization of a piperazine ring [14].



Scheme 2. Synthesis of bis([1,2,5]thiadiazolo)-[3,4-b;3',4'-e]pyrazine 5.

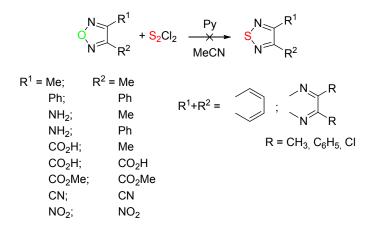
A specific feature of sulfur monochloride (S₂Cl₂) is its diverse reactivity [15–18]. The most useful property of this compound is its sulfurating ability. Apart from this, S₂Cl₂ is a strong chlorinating agent, but it is rarely used since there are many other chlorinating agents that afford higher yields of the reaction products. The oxidative ability of S₂Cl₂ has been investigated to a much lower extent because the products of formal oxidation reactions are formed, as a rule, in a course of complex multistage processes involving chlorination, dehydrochlorination, sulfuration, *etc.* A direct exchange of a chalcogen atom with a sulfur atom in the reaction with sulfur monochloride in chalcogen-nitrogen heterocycles has not been discovered before our works [10,13]. To the best of our knowledge, the only formal analogy of this exchange is the classical Yuryev reaction performed under very drastic conditions [19–21]. However, the reaction pathways seem to be very different and its scope is very limited to heterocycles with one heteroatom, and high yields were achieved by using furan as a starting material; vigorous conditions of this method did not allow its spread for compounds with labile groups.

In this paper, we report a study of a reaction between a wide range of 1,2,5-oxadiazoles and 1,2,5-selenadiazoles and sulfur monochloride for the synthesis of fused mono- and bis(1,2,5-thiadiazoles).

2. Results and Discussion

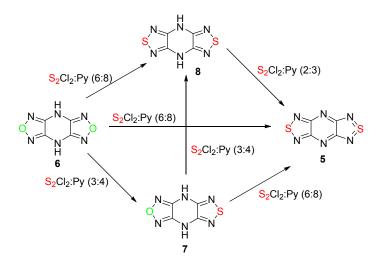
2.1. Conversion of 1,2,5-Oxadiazoles into 1,2,5-Thiadiazoles

We attempted to extend the reaction with sulfur monochloride and pyridine in acetonitrile to other monocyclic, benzo-, and pyrido-fused 1,2,5-oxadiazoles. It was found that the uncondensed 1,2,5-oxadiazoles, 2,1,3-benzooxadiazole, and 5,6-disubstituted [1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-b]pyrazines, shown in Scheme 3, did not react with S₂Cl₂ under these conditions in practically all cases. Employing 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane or triethylamine as a base and changing the solvent to chloroform or to dimethylformamide at temperatures from -25 to 100 °C also did not lead to 1,2,5-thiadiazole derivatives. The analysis of these results has driven us to the conclusion that for the successful conversion of 1,2,5-oxadiazoles into 1,2,5-thiadiazoles, one or two NH₂ or NH groups attached to oxadiazole ring are needed.



Scheme 3. 1,2,5-Oxadiazoles which did not react with sulfur monochloride.

To continue our attempts to convert the 1,2,5-oxadiazole ring into 1,2,5-thiadiazole, the reaction of 4H,8H-bis[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-b:3',4'-e]pyrazine **6**, containing two oxadiazole rings and two NH groups, with sulfur monochloride was investigated in detail (Scheme 4).



Scheme 4. Reactions of 4*H*,8*H*-bis[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-*b*:3',4'-*e*]pyrazine **6** with sulfur monochloride in MeCN.

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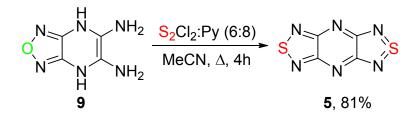
It was found that the treatment of compound **6** with an excess of sulfur monochloride (6 equiv) and pyridine (8 equiv) in boiling MeCN gave aromatic bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) **5** in good yield (Scheme 4, Table 1, entry 1).

No.	Starting Compound ⁻	Quantity of Reagents for 1 equiv of Starting Compound		Temperature, °C	Reaction	Reaction Product,
		S ₂ Cl ₂	Pyridine		Time, h	Yield %
1	6	6	8	82	4	5 , 76
2	6	3	4	20	20	7, 90
3	6	6	8	20	20	8 , 83
4	7	3	4	20	20	8 , 66
5	7	6	8	82	5	5 , 56
6	8	2	3	82	2	5 , 85

Table 1. Reactions of [1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-*b*]pyrazines 6–8 with S₂Cl₂ in MeCN.

The formation of thiadiazoles 7 and 8 from bis(1,2,5-oxadiazole) 6 indicated that the successive formation of two thiadiazole rings occurred at room temperature (entries 2 and 3, Table 1) and preceded the final aromatization of the piperazine cycle in boiling MeCN (Scheme 4). This was confirmed by the treatment of oxadiazolothiadiazole 7 with the same mixture at room temperature which led to bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) derivative 8 in good yield (entry 4, Table 1), and the conversion of bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) 8 to aromatic tricycle 5 at high temperature (entry 6, Table 1).

Tricycle **5** can be obtained also from diamine derivative **9** by treatment with S₂Cl₂ and pyridine in boiling MeCN (Scheme 5). In that case, two processes take place simultaneously—the formation of the thiadiazole ring from the diamine moiety and the dehydration of dihydropiperazine into the aromatic pyrazine ring, presumably by action of sulfur monochloride.

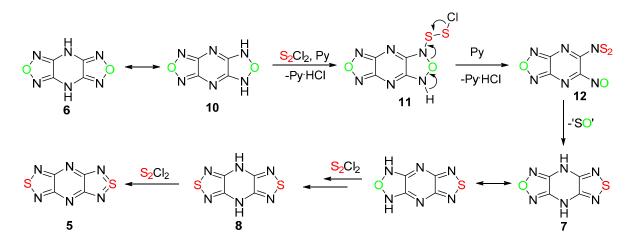


Scheme 5. Reaction of 4,7-dihydro[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-b]pyrazine-5,6-diamine 9 with S₂Cl₂.

Dehydration of dihydropiperazine to a pyrazine ring is quite a rare process and it was investigated in detail for bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) derivative **8**. It was found that the treatment with a rank of oxidizers usually used for similar processes—bromine, DDQ, PhI(OAc)₂ and its perfluoro analog PhI(O(C(O)CF₃))₂ in various solvents (CHCl₃, THF, ether, MeCN)—gave no reaction in most cases, and in some it led to the decomposition of starting material. Aromatic bis-1,2,5-thidiazolopyrazine **5** has been obtained in the reaction of **8** with sulfuryl chloride, and it was found that to get a high yield of compound **5**, it is necessary to employ eight equivalents of oxidant and hours-long boiling.

The described procedures provide a new synthetic pathway to fused 1,2,5-thiadiazoles from corresponding oxadiazoles. The key steps may be explained by the sulfurization of the tautomeric form **10** of the tricycle **6** with sulfur monochloride in the presence of the base to give chlorodithio derivative

11, followed by the elimination of hydrogen chloride with the formation of *N*-thiosulfinylamine 12 (Scheme 6). Further cyclization of compound 12 into 1,2,5-thiadiazole 7 via cycloaddition/ retrocycloaddition with the extrusion of sulfur monoxide (SO), which is thermodynamically unstable and decomposes very rapidly [22], may occur. A similar formation of the 1,2,5-thiadiazole ring from *N*-thiosulfinylamine and nitro groups has recently been proposed [13]. This reaction could then be repeated to give bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) **8**, which may oxidize with the formation of aromatic tricycle **5**. Bis([1,2,5]thiadiazolo)-[3,4-*b*;3',4'-*e*]pyrazine **5** is of interest as a prominent precursor of persistent radical anions [6].



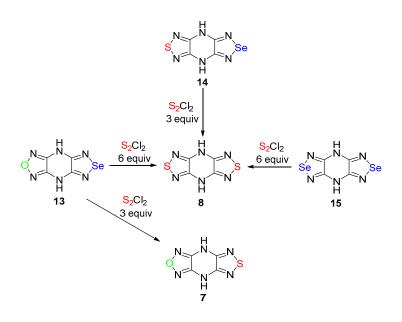
Scheme 6. A plausible mechanism for the formation of bis([1,2,5]thiadiazolo)-[3,4-b;3',4'-e] pyrazine 5 from 4H,8H-bis[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-b:3',4'-e] pyrazine 6.

2.2. Conversion of 1,2,5-Selenadiazoles into 1,2,5-Thiadiazoles

To further explore the possibility of sulfur monochloride to substitute the oxygen atom in 1,2,5-oxadiazoles with a sulfur atom, the reaction of 4,8-dihydro[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-*b*][1,2,5] selenadiazolo[3,4-*e*]pyrazine **13** with S₂Cl₂ was investigated. Tricycle **13** was found to be inactive by treatment with S₂Cl₂ in MeCN, apparently because it was not dissolved in the reaction mixture. When MeCN was substituted with DMF, 4,8-dihydro[1,2,5]oxadiazolo[3,4-*b*][1,2,5]thiadiazolo[3,4-*e*]pyrazine **7** was isolated in high yield (entry 1, Table 2). It means that a selective exchange of the selenium atom in the 1,2,5-selenadiazole ring with a sulfur atom has occurred. There is only one example of conversion of 1,2,5-selenadiazoles to 1,2,5-thiadiazoles by the action of hydrogen sulfide to the (1,2,5-selenadiazolo) porphyrazine derivative [23]. When an excess of sulfur monochloride was used in the reaction of bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) **8** (entry 2, Table 2). Also, mono- and bis(1,2,5-selenadiazoles) **14** and **15**, respectively, can be involved in this reaction to give bis(1,2,5-thiadiazole) **8** in high yields (Scheme 7).

The most important results are summarized in Table 2.

In an attempt to develop general direct synthesis of 1,2,5-thiadiazoles from selenadiazoles, the latter were reacted with S₂Cl₂. Treatment of 1,2,5-selenadiazoles fused with electron-acceptor heterocycles, such as 1,2,5-thiadiazole (16), 1,2,5-selenadiazole (17), quinoxaline (18), and others (19–20) with S₂Cl₂ in DMF, gave the corresponding mono- and bis(1,2,5-thiadiazoles) (2, 21–23) at various temperatures in good yields (Scheme 8, entries 5–9, Table 2).



Scheme 7. Reactions of [1,2,5]selenadiazolo[3,4-*b*]pyrazines 13–15 with sulfur monochloride.

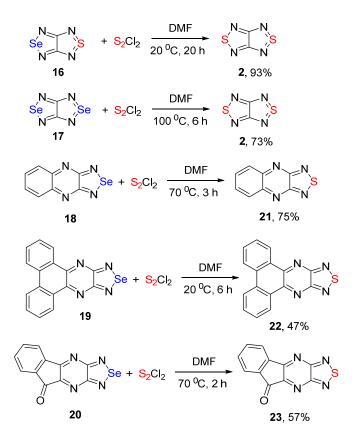
No.	Starting Compound	Quantity of S ₂ Cl ₂ for 1 equiv of Starting Compound	Temperature, °C	Reaction Time, h	Reaction Product, Yield %
1	13	3	20	3	7, 91
2	13	6	100	6	8 , 78
3	14	3	20	20	8 , 83
4	15	6	100	6	8 , 85
5	16	3	20	20	2 , 93
6	17	6	100	6	2 , 73
7	18	2	70	3	21 , 75
8	19	2	20	6	22 , 47
9	20	2	70	2	23 , 57

Table 2. Reactions of fused 1,2,5-selenadiazoles with S₂Cl₂ in DMF.

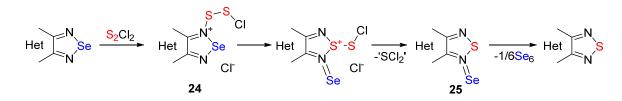
In all cases, the formation of the characteristic red amorphous precipitate of elemental selenium was indicated. In the case of **16**, this precipitate was isolated in practically quantitative yield and its structure was confirmed by mass-spectrometry and elemental analysis.

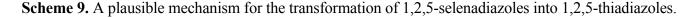
We attempted to extend this reaction to benzo-fused and monocyclic 1,2,5-selenadiazoles. It was found that 2,1,3-benzoselenadiazole and 3,4-diphenyl-1,2,5-selenadiazole did not react with sulfur monochloride in organic solvents under forcing conditions (refluxing in acetonitrile or heating in DMF at 100 °C for 10 h) and were recovered from the reaction mixtures in practically quantitative yields.

To compare the reactivity of 1,2,5-oxadiazoles and 1,2,5-selenadiazoles in the reaction with sulfur monochloride, it should be noted that in both cases a fused nitrogen-containing heterocycle is needed for the successful exchange of oxygen or selenium atoms to sulfur. The most plausible mechanism of the conversion of 1,2,5-selenadiazoles into 1,2,5-thiadiazoles is shown in Scheme 9. The key steps may include the sulfurization of the selenadiazole ring with sulfur monochloride to give chlorodithio derivative **24**, followed by the recyclization of the selenadiazole ring and the elimination of sulfur dichloride with the formation of 1,2,5-selenadiazolo-*N*-selenide **25** (Scheme 9). Further extrusion of elemental selenium, which is precipitated from the reaction mixture, affords the final 1,2,5-thiadiazole.



Scheme 8. Reactions of fused 1,2,5-selenadiazoles 16-20 with sulfur monochloride.





The method described here supplemented and enhanced the possibilities for the synthesis of fused 1,2,5-thiadiazoles.

3. Experimental Section

3.1. General Information

Elemental analyses for C, H, and N were performed with Perkin Elmer 2400 Elemental Analyser (Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA). Melting points were determined on a Boetius hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected.

¹H- (300.1 MHz) and ¹³C- (75.5 MHz) NMR spectra were taken for CDCl₃ solutions (unless otherwise indicated) with a Bruker AM-300 (Bruker AXS Handheld Inc., Kennewick, WA, USA) and referred to tetramethylsilane (¹H and ¹³C), *J* values are given in Hz.

MS spectra (EI, 70 eV) were obtained with a Finnigan MAT INCOS 50 (Hazlet, NJ, USA). High-resolution MS spectra were measured on a Bruker micrOTOF II instrument (Bruker Daltonik Gmbh, Bremen, Germany) using electrospray ionization (ESI). The measurement was operated in a

positive ion mode (interface capillary voltage -4500 V) or in a negative ion mode (3200 V); mass range was from m/z 50 to m/z 3000 Da; external or internal calibration was done with Electrospray Calibrant Solution (Fluka). A syringe injection was used for solutions in acetonitrile, methanol, or water (flow rate 3 μ L·min⁻¹). Nitrogen was applied as a dry gas; interface temperature was set at 180 °C.

IR spectra were measured with a Specord M-80 (Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany) instrument in KBr pellets.

Fused 1,2,5-oxadiazoles 6 [24], 7 [25], 9 [25] and 1,2,5-selenadiazoles 13–20 [11,26,27] were prepared according to the published procedures.

3.2. General Procedure for the Reaction of 1,2,5-Oxadiazoles with S₂Cl₂ and Pyridine in Acetonitrile

Sulfur monochloride (quantity, see Table 1) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of oxadiazole **6–9** (1.0 mmol) and pyridine (quantity, see Table 1) in dry acetonitrile (10 mL) under argon at -25 °C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature or heated at the temperature and for the time specified in Table 1. The precipitate was filtered and washed thoroughly with MeCN and hexane.

Bis([1,2,5]Thiadiazolo)-[3,4-b;3',4'-e]pyrazine **5**. Yellow solid, mp 320–323 °C (Lit. [14] mp 320–322 °C). IR and mass spectra are similar to the literature data [14].

4,8-Dihydrobis([1,2,5]thiadiazolo)[3,4-b:3',4'-e]pyrazine **8**. Beige crystals, mp >350 °C. Anal. calcd for C₄H₂N₆S₂. (198.23): C, 24.24; H, 1.02; N, 42.40; S, 32.35. Found: C, 24.38; H, 0.98; N, 42.26; S, 32.38. NMR (DMSO-*d*₆), δ, ¹H: 10.11 (s, 2H, NH); ¹³C: 142.8, 155.1. IR, v, cm⁻¹: 3136 (NH), 1628, 1334, 941, 520. MS, *m/z* (%): 198 (M⁺, 100), 171 (14), 131 (7), 46 (9). ESI-MS: found *m/z* 220.9850; calc. for C₄H₂N₆S₂ [M + Na]⁺ 220.9675.

3.3. General Procedure for the Reaction of 1,2,5-Selenadiazoles with S₂Cl₂ in DMF

Sulfur monochloride (quantity, see Table 2) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of selenadiazole **13–20** (1.0 mmol) in dry DMF (10 mL) under argon at -5 °C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature or heated at the temperature and for the time specified in Table 2. Elemental selenium was filtered, the reaction mixture was poured into H₂O with ice, extracted with EtOAc (4 mL × 20 mL). Combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. Yields are given in Table 2.

[1,2,5]Thiadiazolo[3,4-b]quinoxaline **21**. Yellow solid, mp 195–197 °C (Lit. [28] mp 199.5–200.5 °C). IR and mass spectra are similar to the literature data [28].

Dibenzo[f,h][1,2,5]thiadiazolo[3,4-b]quinoxaline **22**. Yellow solid, mp 302–304 °C (Lit. [28] mp 298–300 °C). IR and mass spectra are similar to the literature data [28].

9H-Inden[1,2-e][1,2,5]selenadiazolo[3,4-b]pyrazin-9-one **23**. Yellow solid, mp 286–287 °C. Anal. calcd for C₁₁H₄N₄OS (240.24): C 54.99, H 1.68, N 23.32. Found: C 55.13, H 1.82, N 23.09. NMR (DMSO-*d*₆), δ, ¹H: 7.84 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.97 (m, 2H, Ph), 8.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, Ph); ¹³C: 126.6, 127.7, 137.6, 140.8 (4 CH), 133.3, 138.0, 141.7, 143.3, 158.7, 163.9 (6 sp² tertiary C), 190.3 (C=O). ESI-MS: found *m*/*z* 241.0177; calc. for C₁₁H₄N₄OS [M]⁺ 241.0179.

4. Conclusions

A new reaction, namely that of fused 1,2,5-oxadiazoles and 1,2,5-selenadiazoles with sulfur monochloride, has been described as a one-pot synthetic route to 1,2,5-thiadiazoles. This procedure is especially valuable in cases where 1,2,5-oxadiazoles (e.g., **6**) are more readily available than the corresponding 1,2,5-thiadiazoles. These reactions have broadened the utility of sulfur monochloride as a highly efficient sulfurating reagent. Fused 1,2,5-thiadiazoles are of interest as precursors of persistent radical anions and components of charge-transfer complexes.

Acknowledgments

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Author Contributions

LSK and EAK designed research; LSK and OAR performed research and analyzed the data; OAR wrote the paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Sample Availability: Samples of all compounds are available from the authors.

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