# Characteristic differences in EI mass spectra of 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine derivatives

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#### Received 23 November 1984

The characteristic differences in the fragmentation pathways in the mass spectra of the studied derivatives of 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine have been found. The subsequent loss of methyl, ammonia or hydroxylamine and  $\cdot C \equiv CH$  fragment is the most characteristic feature for the amines and the hydroxylamines of interest.

Обнаружены характеристические различия в масс-спектрах при фрагментации изучаемых производных 2,2,6,6-тетраметилпиперидина. Последующая потеря метила, аммиака или гидроксиламина и  $C \equiv CH$  фрагмента является самой характеристической чертой изучаемых аминов и гидроксиламинов.

In this paper the possible fragmentation pathways in EI mass spectra of the title compounds were compared. A general formula of the compounds of interest is

R	Z			
	-СH <sub>2</sub> -	O C_	ОН    -СН-	ОСОРЬ   СН
ОН О. Н	I П Ш	IV V VI	VII VIII IX	X XI XII

The mass spectra of the nitroxides II, V, and VIII (EI, 70 eV) were described by Morrison and Davies in [1]. The spectra of the amines I, IV, VII and the radicals II, V, VIII (EI, 30 eV) were described in [2]. To our knowledge the spectra of

hydroxylamines and benzoates III, VI, IX-XII have never been reported.\*

The mass spectra (EI, 70 eV) of the compounds I-XII were measured. The metastable transitions arranged in the table and the bar graphs will be sent to the interested by the authors on request. The spectra of I, II, IV, V, VII, and VIII were in accordance with those in [1, 2]. We noticed a small difference between the spectrum of VIII taken in our laboratory and that reported in [1]. The intensity of the peaks at m/z = 57 and m/z = 71 was inverted.

The loss of the fragment with the relative molecular mass  $M_r = 17$  was observed in the spectra of all amines. This transition was confirmed by the metastable peaks. In our opinion this fragment is NH<sub>3</sub> (in opposition to [2]). For the hydroxylamines III, IX, and the radical II the loss of NH<sub>2</sub>OH ( $M_r = 33$ ) was confirmed. The fragmentation pathway for the amines I, IV, VII, X and the hydroxylamines III, IX is proposed in Scheme 1.

In *I*, *III*, *IV* the ion *a* is formed from the parent ion by the loss of  $\cdot$  CH<sub>3</sub> and in *VII*, *IX*, *X* by the subsequent loss of  $\cdot$  CH<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O or PhCOOH. The structures b-d may be proved by the hyperconjugation mechanism. The cyclization of the intermediate *e* may lead to the formation of a 5-membered  $(g_1, g_2, g_3)$  or 6-membered ring  $(f_1, f_2)$ . The 5-membered structure  $g_3$  is proposed in [1] as the structure of the ion at m/z = 109 forming in another rearrangement.

The formation of the intermediate structure e for the ion at m/z = 107 (observed in the spectrum of the amine X) is caused by the loss of the fragment  $\cdot CH \equiv C$  ( $M_r = 25$ ). It was confirmed by the metastable peak.

The sequence of the ions at m/z = 107, 82, 67 was present in the spectra of VII, IX, and XII. The sequence at m/z = 109, 84, 69 was observed in the spectra of I, II, and III.

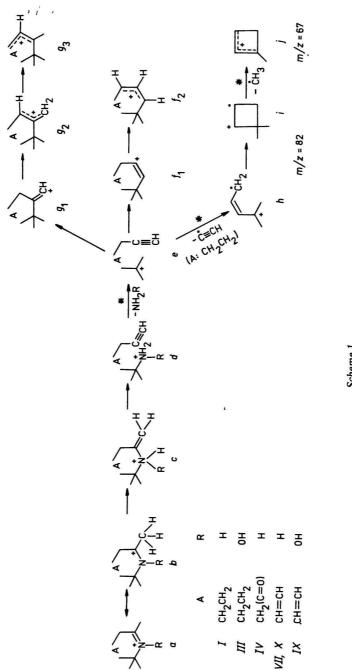
Another fragmentation pathway seems to be confirmed by the metastable peak analysis for the loss of NH<sub>2</sub>OH from the parent ion of the radical II (Scheme 2).

The formula  $C_9H_{15}$  for k has already been reported in [1]. The loss of HNO is the typical fragmentation pathway for all hydroxylamines (III, VI, IX, and XII) [2], whereas the elimination of ·NO is characteristic feature for the molecular ions of the nitroxyl radicals II, V, VIII, and XI [1, 3, 4]. The loss of HNO was observed in the following steps (Scheme 3).

The structure of the ion  $o_1$  was also confirmed in the fragmentation pathway of the radical V, but in another way — by the subsequent elimination of ·NO and ·CH<sub>3</sub> from the ion at m/z = 116.

In [2] a simultaneous loss of the 'NO and CO fragments from the ion at m/z = 114 was described. To our knowledge the elimination does not occur

<sup>\*</sup> Recently the mass spectra of at least I, II, V, VII, VIII were reported in [14]. (Note added in proof.)



Scheme 1

e, f or g: I, III m/z=1IV m/z=1VII. IX. X m/z=1

simultaneously but subsequently. It was confirmed by the metastable peaks. It is in accordance with our former investigations [5]. The presence of the peak at m/z = 112 in IV may be also explained by the loss of CO from the ion t. The ion u loses acetonimine and the allyl-stabilized ion l is formed (Scheme 4).

The loss of acetonimine  $(M_r = 57)$  is typical for the amines, while the elimination

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} CH_2 \\ CH_2 \\ I \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ M/z = 55 \end{array} \\ \end{array}$$

Scheme 2

B

$$-\dot{c}H_3$$
 $-\dot{c}H_3$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_4$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_2$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_2$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_2$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_3$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_3$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_4$ 
 $-\dot{c}H_2$ 
 $-$ 

Scheme 3

Scheme 4

Α	R	X
CH₂CH₂	н	н
$CH_2(C=O)$	= O	Н
СН₂СНОН	ОН	Н
CH₂CH₂	Н	ο.
CH₂CH₂	Н	ОН
$CH_2(C=O)$	= O	ОН

Scheme 5

of acetone oxime  $(M_r = 73)$  is typical for the hydroxylamines. The loss of fragment with  $M_r = 72$  (probably  $(CH_3)_2C = N - O$ ) was observed for the radical II (Scheme 5).

In the case of benzoates X—XII this type of elimination was not observed. In the spectra of these compounds the presence of PhC  $\equiv$  O<sup>+</sup>, Ph<sup>+</sup>, and C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> ions (typical for the benzoyl derivatives) was recorded.

In almost all the compounds the characteristic loss of  $CH_2 = C = O$  or  $CH_2 = CH - X$  (X = H, OH, OCOPh) was observed. It is McLafferty's rearrangement with formation of the ion at m/z = 98 [1, 2], and the isobutene ( $M_r = 56$ ) elimination. Water or benzoic acid was easily eliminated from the alcohols or the benzoates. The respective alkene was formed [1, 2].

The  $[M - CH_3]^+$  peak is the characteristic feature of the amines and the hydroxylamines. It is more abundant than the parent one. In the spectra of the nitroxides the  $[M - CH_3]^+$  peak is less intense than the molecular one, as well as the  $[M - M(M_r = 14)]^+$  (e.g.  $[M + M(M_r = 1) - CH_3]^+$ ) one [1]. It is caused by the possibility of the elimination of the second methyl group and formation of the stable  $[M - M(M_r = 30)]^+$  ion [1].

The ions at m/z = 58 and m/z = 42 which are present in the spectra of all amines and hydroxylamines, are identified as  $(CH_3)_2C = NH_2$  [2] and  $CH_3C = NH$   $(M(M_r = 58) - CH_4)$ , respectively. In the spectra of the nitroxides both the above-mentioned ions are absent.

## **Experimental**

The electron impact mass spectra were obtained at 70 eV using an LKB 9000 A mass spectrometer; ion source temperature 250 °C; accelerating voltage 3.5 kV; trap current 60  $\mu$ A. The compounds *III—XII* were introduced by direct inlet at 25—65 °C. The compounds *I\** and *II* were introduced as 5 % acetone solutions (1  $\mu$ l) through the GLC column (length 4 m, 3 % SE-30 on Chromosorb G) and the molecular separator of Becker—Ryhage type was used; carrier gas — helium. The temperature of injector 180 °C, of column 130 °C, of separator 235 °C.

The title compounds were obtained according to the respective literature: the amines I [6], IV, VII, X [7]; the nitroxides II [8], V [9], VIII [10], XI [11]; the hydroxylamines III, VI, IX, XII [12].

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<sup>\*</sup> When the volatile amine I was introduced by DI, only the spectrum of the triacetone (IV) azine was obtained. Both I and azine are the products in the Wolff—Kishner reduction of IV [6, 13].