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Mass Spectral Fragmentation Study of Substituted 1,3-Diphenyl-2-pyrazolines

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The electron impact induced fragmentation of twenty two 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines mono-, di- and trisubstituted in one or in both phenyl rings was studied by deuterium labelling, high and low resolution mass spectrometry, and ion kinetic energy spectroscopy. The fragmentation patterns are discussed taking into account especially the nature of the substituent and the position of substitution.

The results, compared with those for the unsubstituted compound, showed that in general the phenyl ring substitution does not affect its fragmentation. The formation of stable quinoid-type ions directs many fragmentation pathways of methoxy substituted compounds.

INTRODUCTION

The mass spectral behaviour of 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines and its derivatives with a monosubstituted phenyl ring has been the subject of our previous papers^{1,2}.

A closer study of the mass spectra of 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazoline and of its isotopically (¹³C, ¹⁵N and ²H) labelled as well as phenyl ring substituted derivatives, taking into account the metastable transitions and exact mass measurements, provided the possibility of completely elucidating their fragmentation following the electron impact. In the postulated fragmentation pathway of 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazoline all the ions in the mass spectrum (except *m/e* 103) originate from the molecular ions furnishing the base peak of the spectrum. In general, the effect of phenyl ring substitution, as indicated by the study of thirty compounds monosubstituted in one or both phenyls, does not affect the fragmentation pattern of the parent compound, although *ortho* substitution produces some special effect, as demonstrated by the example of *ortho* methoxy and nitro substitution.

In the present study this result is being confirmed by the example of several new compounds, 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines monosubstituted in one or both phenyl rings, as well as disubstituted or trisubstituted in one or both phenyl

rings. Their mass spectra turned out to be characteristic, thus allowing unambiguous identification of isomers. We investigated their fragmentation mechanisms using the data obtained from their labelled analogues and metastable ion decompositions.

RESULTS

In addition to the mass spectra of 31 substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines reported in our previous papers^{1,2} the following 22 substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines have now been examined:

1. monosubstituted in one phenyl ring:

1-phenyl-3-(4''-methylsulfonylphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	1
1-(4'-methylsulfonylphenyl)-3-phenyl-2-pyrazoline	2
1-phenyl-3-(4''-methylthiophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	3
1-phenyl-3-(4''-acetaminophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	4
1-(4'-carbamoylphenyl)-3-phenyl-2-pyrazoline	5
1-phenyl-3-(4''-dimethylaminophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	6
2. monosubstituted in both phenyl rings:

1-(4'-chlorophenyl)-3-(4''-methylsulfonylphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	7
1-(4'-methylsulfonylphenyl)-3-(4''-chlorophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	8
1-(4'-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-3-(4''-chlorophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	9
1-(4'-sulfamoylphenyl)-3-(4''-chlorophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	10
1-(3'-sulfamoylphenyl)-3-(4''-chlorophenyl)-2-pyrazoline	11
3. disubstituted in one phenyl ring:

1-phenyl-3-(2'',4''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	12
1-phenyl-3-(2'',5''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	13
1-phenyl-3-(2'',6''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	14
1-phenyl-3-(2'',6''-dimethoxy-d ₆ -phenyl)-2-pyrazoline	15
1-phenyl-3-(3'',4''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	16
1-phenyl-3-(3'',5''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	17
4. disubstituted in both phenyl rings:

1-(2',6'-dimethylphenyl)-3-(2'',5''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	18
1-(2',6'-dimethylphenyl)-3-(2'',6''-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	19
5. trisubstituted in one phenyl ring:

1-phenyl-(2'',4'',6''-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	20
1-phenyl-(3'',4'',5''-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	21
1-phenyl-(2'',4'',6''-trimethylphenyl)-2-pyrazoline	22

The normalized and uncorrected 70 eV mass spectra of the compounds 1—11 and 15 are listed in table I. Peaks with an intensity of 1% or more related to the base peak are tabulated. For comparison, the spectra of 12—14 and 16—22 are presented as bar graphs in figure 1.

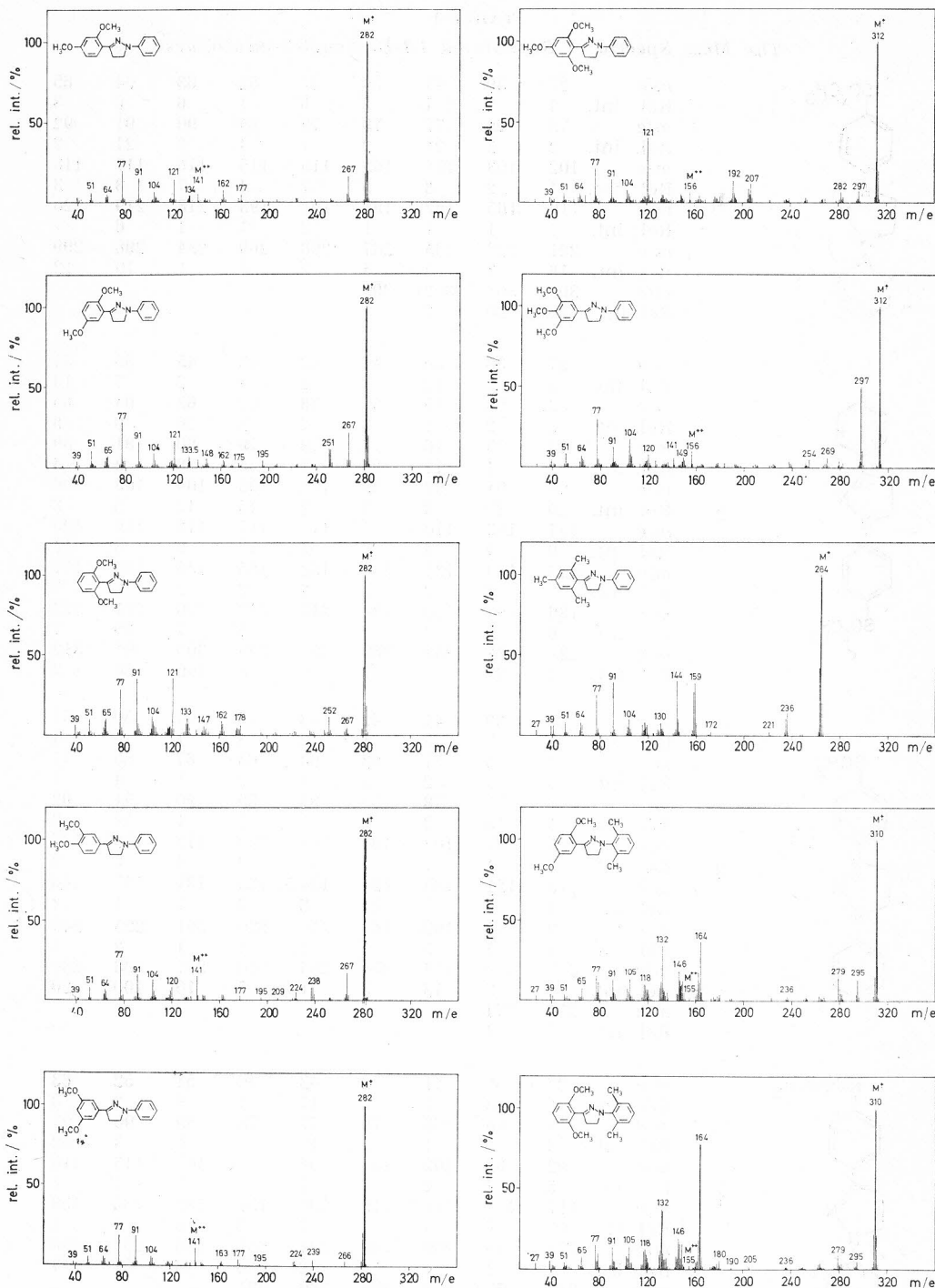
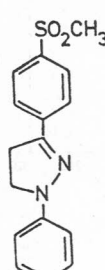
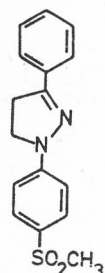
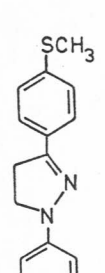
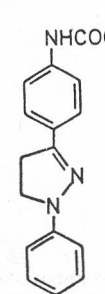
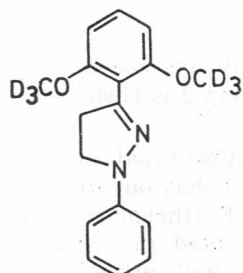


Figure 1. Normalized 70 eV mass spectra of methoxy and methyl substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines (12, 13, 14, 16 and 17, left, top to bottom; 20, 21, 22, 18 and 19, right, top to bottom).

TABLE I
The Mass Spectra of Substituted 1,3-Diphenyl-2-pyrazolines

	1	<i>m/e</i>	27	39	41	50	51	52	63	64	65	
		Rel. int.	1	2	1	2	6	1	6	6	6	3
		<i>m/e</i>	75	76	77	78	79	89	90	91	92	
		Rel. int.	2	3	21	2	1	4	3	21	2	
		<i>m/e</i>	102	103	104	105	110.5	115	116	117	118	
		Rel. int.	1	2	8	5	1	4	7	3	3	
		<i>m/e</i>	119	165	182	191	192	193	218	219	220	
		Rel. int.	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	6	7	
		<i>m/e</i>	221	222	235	237	268	269	284	298	299	
		Rel. int.	16	3	2	5	1	4	1	10	12	
<i>m/e</i>	300	301	302	303								
Rel. int.	100	20	7	1								
	2	<i>m/e</i>	27	38	39	41	42	43	45	50	51	
		Rel. int.	3	2	12	3	2	3	2	7	13	
		<i>m/e</i>	52	53	55	57	58	62	63	64	65	
		Rel. int.	5	2	2	3	2	3	26	9	8	
		<i>m/e</i>	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	89	
		Rel. int.	2	4	11	29	7	5	8	2	6	
		<i>m/e</i>	90	91	92	96	102	103	104	105	106	
		Rel. int.	20	19	8	3	2	15	12	5	3	
		<i>m/e</i>	107	108	110.5	115	116	117	118	119	120	
		Rel. int.	9	4	4	8	5	18	9	5	11	
<i>m/e</i>	123	130	131	132	152	155	156	165	171			
Rel. int.	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3			
<i>m/e</i>	186	192	193	194	212	219	220	221	222			
Rel. int.	6	3	4	2	3	5	7	29	7			
<i>m/e</i>	235	237	238	269	298	299	300	301	312			
Rel. int.	2	25	5	7	6	8	100	20	8			
	3	<i>m/e</i>	27	39	41	42	43	45	47	50	51	
		Rel. int.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	4
		<i>m/e</i>	52	55	57	63	64	65	67	69	71	
		Rel. int.	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	4	1	
		<i>m/e</i>	76	77	78	81	83	89	90	91	92	
		Rel. int.	1	13	2	2	1	1	1	14	2	
		<i>m/e</i>	95	97	103	104	105	108	115	116	117	
		Rel. int.	1	1	1	4	2	2	4	6	2	
		<i>m/e</i>	118	121	133	134	134.5	135	137	147	148	
		Rel. int.	1	1	1	11	2	2	1	1	4	
<i>m/e</i>	149	150	163	164	219	220	221	225	240			
Rel. int.	4	1	5	1	1	1	1	2	1			
<i>m/e</i>	251	252	253	254	255	266	267	268	269			
Rel. int.	2	2	13	3	1	5	10	100	20			
<i>m/e</i>	270	271										
Rel. int.	7	1										
	4	<i>m/e</i>	27	39	41	42	43	50	51	52	63	
		Rel. int.	1	3	2	2	17	1	6	2	3	
		<i>m/e</i>	64	65	66	76	77	78	89	90	91	
		Rel. int.	8	5	1	1	19	3	1	3	22	
		<i>m/e</i>	92	93	102	103	104	105	106	115	116	
		Rel. int.	5	1	1	2	7	4	3	1	1	
		<i>m/e</i>	117	118	118.5	119	130	131	132	133	158	
		Rel. int.	3	6	1	2	2	3	15	3	1	
		<i>m/e</i>	174	175	208	209	234	235	236	237	238	
		Rel. int.	1	1	1	4	2	6	18	21	7	
<i>m/e</i>	263	277	278	279	280	281						
Rel. int.	2	4	7	100	22	3						



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<i>m/e</i>	27	39	41	42	43	44	50	51	52
Rel. int.	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	7	2
<i>m/e</i>	53	55	63	64	65	66	67	76	77
Rel. int.	1	1	3	5	5	1	1	2	17
<i>m/e</i>	78	79	80	81	89	90	91	92	93
Rel. int.	3	2	1	1	1	2	18	3	3
<i>m/e</i>	94	95	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
Rel. int.	2	2	1	5	4	2	3	1	1
<i>m/e</i>	117	117.5	118	119	120	121	123	124	132
Rel. int.	2	3	3	3	2	2	10	1	3
<i>m/e</i>	133	134	135	135.5	136	137	138	144	144.5
Rel. int.	1	1	12	2	1	1	1	6	1
<i>m/e</i>	147	148	149	151	152	157	164	165	166
Rel. int.	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1
<i>m/e</i>	167	168	169	170	180	181	183	184	195
Rel. int.	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	1
<i>m/e</i>	223	224	235	237	242	252	253	269	270
Rel. int.	2	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	3
<i>m/e</i>	286	287	288	289	300				
Rel. int.	10	36	100	19	3				

DISCUSSION

In order to study the effect of phenyl ring substitution in 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazoline on the electron impact, we paid attention to the effect of:

- i) monosubstitution of one or both phenyl rings,
- ii) polysubstitution of one or both phenyl rings.

All compounds exhibit a very pronounced molecular ion (base peak) and the stability of this species can be explained by the unusually low ionization energy of 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazoline as found by molecular photoelectron spectroscopy (< 7 eV)³.

The compounds investigated follow the general fragmentation scheme given for the unsubstituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazoline¹. Fragmentation reactions commonly involved (e.g. the formation of ions with *m/e* 64, 77, 91, 103, 104, 105, 115, 117, 118 and their analogues) can easily be recognized by examination of their mass spectra (see figure 1). For some fragment ions containing only one of the phenyl rings two forms, i.e. the unsubstituted one and the one bearing substituents, usually appear in the spectrum, but their relative abundances may greatly differ.

1,3-Diphenyl-2-pyrazolines Monosubstituted in the Phenyl Rings

According to their characteristics, the mass spectra of 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines monosubstituted in one or both phenyl rings can be divided into three groups²:

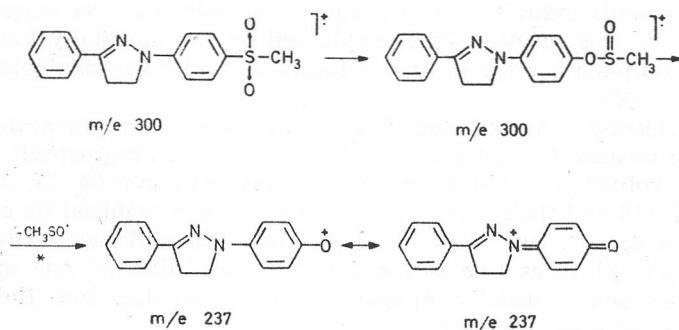
1. 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines, having the substituent relatively tightly bound, fragment from the molecular ion in the same manner as the unsubstituted compound. Examples from ref. 2 are e.g. F, Cl, Br, CF₃, CN, CH₃ as *para* substituents.
2. 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines of this group readily lose their substituents or parts of substituents and are fragmented further from the (M-substituent)⁺ ion in the same way as the parent compound. Examples from ref. 2 are e.g. COCH₃ and I as *para* substituents, as well as OCH₃ and NO₂ in *para* position of 1-phenyl and 3-phenyl, respectively.

3. 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines which show new types of fragmentation and involve the substituent in the possible rearrangement reactions prior to fragmentation (OCH_3 in *para* position of 3-phenyl and NO_2 in *ortho* and *para* position of 1-phenyl).

Although the differences between groups 1 and 2 are not always sharp, the inclusion of compounds 1—5 with complex substituents in group 2 is clear. By contrast, the $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ compound (6) belongs to group 1.

The fragmentation of the 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines monosubstituted in both phenyl rings can easily be rationalized on the basis of the behaviour of corresponding compounds monosubstituted in one phenyl ring. Furthermore, the comparison of mass spectra of two compounds monosubstituted in one phenyl ring with the corresponding compound monosubstituted in both phenyl rings indicates that neither the stability of the molecular ion nor the intensities of analogous ions are changed significantly which implies the nonexistence (or unimportance) of synergistic substituent effects.

The characteristic phenyl migration from sulfur to oxygen in the mass spectra of sulfones⁴ is also apparent in the mass spectra of compounds 1, 2, 7 and 8 containing the SO_2CH_3 substituent in the *para* position of phenyl. Hence, these compounds not only eliminate CH_3 from their molecular ion (to give $(\text{M} - \text{CH}_3)^+$ which decomposes by expulsion of O), but also lose CH_3SO in a one-step process (scheme 1).



Scheme 1

1,3-Diphenyl-2-pyrazolines Polysubstituted in the Phenyl Rings

In contrast to the 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines monosubstituted in one or both phenyl rings, the mass spectra of doubly and triply substituted compounds were not examined in our previous work². Thus, the mass spectra of the six dimethoxy (12—17), two trimethoxy (20—21) and one trimethyl substituted compound (22), all substituted in the 3-phenyl ring, as well as the two isomers (18—19), each bearing two methoxy and two methyl groups in 3-phenyl and 1-phenyl positions, respectively, were investigated in more detail.

Examination of these spectra shows that the polymethoxy substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines, similarly to the monomethoxy compounds reported in ref. 2, undergo two characteristic primary fragmentation reactions, namely, loss of H and CH_3 . A very important secondary fragmentation process is the elimination of CO from the $(\text{M} - \text{CH}_3)^+$ ions.

The abundance of the $(M-H)^+$ ion in the mass spectra of dimethoxy and trimethoxy substituted compounds varies from 1 to 39% (table II), depending on the position and number of the substituents. For comparison, in the mass spectra of 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines substituted by a methoxy group in the 3-phenyl ring, $(M-H)^+$ ions of 36, 25 and 16% relative intensities were found for the *ortho*, *meta* and *para* isomers, respectively.

TABLE II

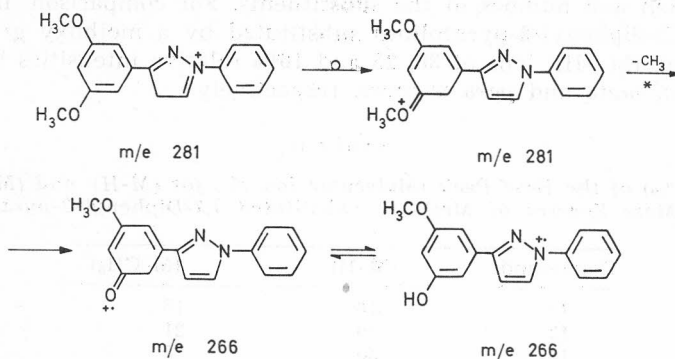
Percentages (%) of the Base Peak (Molecular Ion M^+) for $(M-H)^+$ and $(M-CH_3)^+$ Ions in the Mass Spectra of Methoxy Substituted 1,3-Diphenyl-2-pyrazolines

Compound	$(M-H)^+$	$(M-CH_3)^+$
12	16	16
13	19	21
14	39	5
15	36	3 (CD ₃)
16	4	17
17	16	—
20	26	7
21	1	50

The origin of hydrogen, which is lost by primary fragmentation from the molecular ion, was studied in a number of methoxy substituted aromatic compounds^{5,6}. The deuterium labelling experiments showed that loss of a methoxy hydrogen was negligible for these compounds. In this study we are using the hexadeuterodimethoxy compound (15) and are thus able to distinguish between ring and methoxy hydrogens and indicate the loss of a pyrazoline ring hydrogen. As a matter of fact, the mass spectrum of compound 15, which contains 95% *d*₆ molecules, showed a $(M-1)^+$ peak of 36% to be compared with 39% in the unlabelled compound 14 (table II). About 3% of hydrogen is lost from the methyl group as indicated by a corresponding enhancement of the $(M-2)^+$ ion (8% in 14, 10% in 15). This agrees with the primary fragmentation of the $(M-H)^+$ ions in the mass spectra of methoxy substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolines, as indicated by m.i.k.e. spectra. It also involves the loss of methyl and, hence, of untouched methoxy groups. However, it would be of interest to see what kind of interaction between the methoxy and pyrazoline methylene group is responsible for the high loss in the *ortho* substituted compounds (14 and 20). The same interaction might be operative in the formation of the fragment ion *m/e* 121 (C₇H₉N₂)⁺ in these compounds.

If the methoxy groups are *ortho* or *para* with respect to each other, more favourable fragmentations like CH₃ loss prevail over the hydrogen loss. This can be seen in the spectra of 13, 16 and 21 (figure 1). In the case of 21 the $(M-H)^+$ ion is nearly absent. The importance of the CH₃ loss, provided that methoxy groups are *ortho* or *para* to each other, has been attributed to the stability of the resulting $(M-CH_3)^+$ ion, due to the formation of a quinoid structure. The low intensity of the $(M-CH_3)^+$ ion in 17 is ascribed to the inability of the two methoxy groups in *meta* position to form a quinoid structure. However, the loss of methyl from the $(M-H)^+$ ion in this compound

indicates possible rearrangements within the molecular ion stabilizing the resulting ion of m/e 266 (scheme 2).



EXPERIMENTAL

The low-resolution mass spectra were obtained on a Varian CH-7 mass spectrometer, using an ionization current of 100 μ A, an electron energy of 70 eV, and an ion accelerating voltage of 3 kV. The accurate mass measurements by the peak matching technique and the measurements of the metastable transitions using m. i. k. e. and i. k. e. spectra were determined with a CEC 21-220C double focusing mass spectrometer at 70 eV, 150 μ A and 6 kV. All samples were introduced into the ion source (temperature 200 $^{\circ}$ C) on a direct insertion probe.

Substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-pyrazolones were prepared by reaction of β -dimethylaminopropiophenone hydrochloride (Mannich base) or a correspondingly substituted β -dimethylaminopropiophenone hydrochloride with phenylhydrazine or correspondingly substituted phenylhydrazines⁷. Details on their characterization, purity and spectral data are given in Refs. 8—10. The Mannich base and corresponding compounds were synthesised by reaction of acetophenone with dimethylamin hydrochloride and paraformaldehyde¹¹. 2,6-Dimethoxy- d_6 -acetophenone was prepared by methylation of 2,6-dihydroxy-acetophenone with hexadeuterodimethylsulfate (Merck, 99% d_6) in sodium hydroxide solution¹². It was characterized by mass spectrometry (97% d_6). The resulting hexadeuterated 1-phenyl-3-(2',6''-dimethoxy- d_6 -phenyl)-2-pyrazolone 15 contained 95% d_6 molecules.

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SAŽETAK

Istraživanje fragmentacije supstituiranih 1,3-difenil-2-pirazolina

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Fragmentacija dvadeset i dva 1,3-difenil-2-pirazolina mono-, di- i trisupstituirana u jednom ili oba fenila, do koje dolazi nakon bombardiranja s elektronima, studirana je korištenjem spojeva obilježenih deuterijem, a uz pomoć spektrometrije masa visokog i niskog razlučivanja i spektroskopije kinetičkih energija iona. U radu se govori o utjecaju vrste supstituenta i položaja supstitucije na fragmentaciju.

Rezultati uspoređeni s podacima za nesupstituirani spoj pokazuju da se supstitucijom fenila u pravilu ne mijenja osnovna fragmentacija. Moguće nastajanje iona kinoidne strukture utječe na fragmentaciju spojeva supstituiranih s metoksi grupom.

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Prispjelo 25. srpnja 1979.

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