CHEMILUMINESCENCE OF 10-METHYLACRIDINIUM SALTS FOLLOWING BASE CATALYSED OXYGENATION IN DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE

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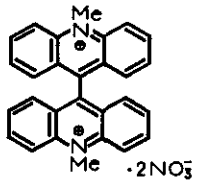
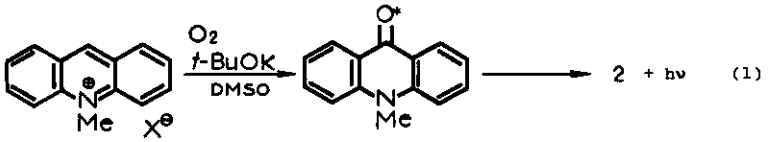
Abstract — When oxidized with ground state oxygen in the presence of t-BuOK in DMSO, 10-methylacridinium methosulfates (1a) gave strong light emission owing to the fluorescence of 10-methylacridone (2) excited to the S_1 state.

In the course of the studies on chemiluminescence (CL) of 9,10-substituted acridanes,[1] we found a new chemiluminescent reaction of 10-methylacridinium salts (1) when oxidized by molecular oxygen under basic conditions. The appearant structure resembles to the powerful chemiluminescent compound, lucigenin[2,3] (Φ_{CL} 3.0 x 10^{-3}),[4] but the reaction mechanism of 1 seems to differ from the lucigenin's. We describe here the bright blue chemiluminescent reactions of 10-methylacridinium methosulfate (1a) owing to the fluorescence of 10-methylacridone (2) excited to the S_1 state, when oxidized with ground state oxygen in the presence of t-BuOK in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (scheme 1). Happ et al. reported a weak CL of 10-methylacridinium chloride (1b) catalysed by excess KCN, instead of t-BuOK, in DMSO/H_2O (9:1). Under the similar conditions, 1a yielded reduced amounts of CL (less than 1/3 of that by t-BuOK).



Lucigenin



1a: X = OSO_3Me
1b. X = Cl

2*

Each solution (2 ml) of 1a[6] - b[7] (1 mmol/l) in DMSO (dried over and distilled from CaH_2 and saturated by O_2 before use) was treated with DMSO solution (2 ml) of t-BuOK (Merck, 10 mmol/l) or KCN (Wako, 10 mmol/l) at room temperature. The mixture was flushed by O_2 gas for 10 min before and during the oxygenation reaction. Fast light emission was observed.[8] After neutralization of the resulted mixture with dry ice, solvents were evaporated in vacuo and the residue was extracted with ether, from which the final product 2[10] was characterized by IR, NMR, and mp and identified on GLC[11] and TLC[11] with the authentic sample. The results are shown in Table 1.

CL spectrum of 1 was identical with fluorescence (FL) spectrum of 2 (420 and 435 nm) under the similar basic conditions (t-BuOK/DMSO/O_2 or KCN/DMSO-H_2O/O_2). These results suggest that the emitter in the CL reactions is the ketone (2) generated quantitatively. When treated first with the base in the vacuum (freeze-thaw cycle: 10^{-4} mmHg x 3 times), and then

by oxygen, **1a** also gave CL. Acridine (3) itself also showed weak CL to give 9-acridone under the similar conditions.

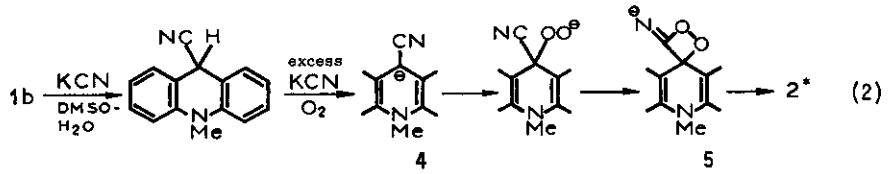
Table 1. Chemiluminescence of the Acridinium Compounds **1**.[8]

	[1] (mmol/l)	[t-BuOK] (mmol/l)	[KCN] (mmol/l)	Yield of 2 (%)	Φ_{CL} (einstein/mol x 10^3)[a]
1a	1.01	10	—	97%	0.69
	1.01	—	10	99	0.20
1b	1.00	10	—	93	0.56
	1.00	—	10	39	0.063
3	1.00	10	—	—	0.015
	1.00	—	10	—	—

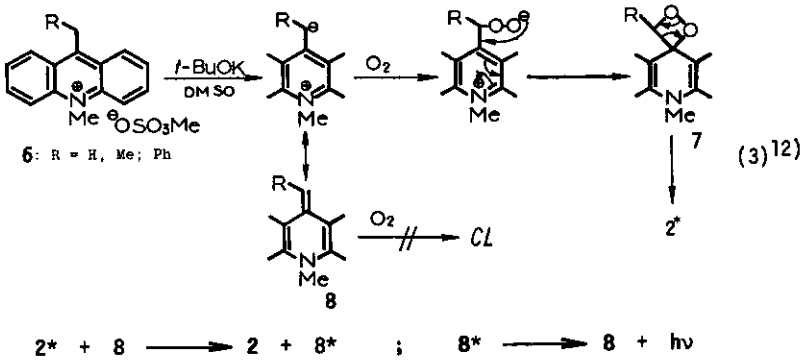
a) Standard: luminol in aqueous solution (ref. 9).

The behaviors of **1a** in the present reactions show that the reaction path way is different from that of the Happ's[5] (scheme 2) and that for the 9-substituted compounds shown below (scheme 3).[12]

Happ et al. had suggested the reaction mechanism for **1b** with KCN as shown scheme 2.[5]



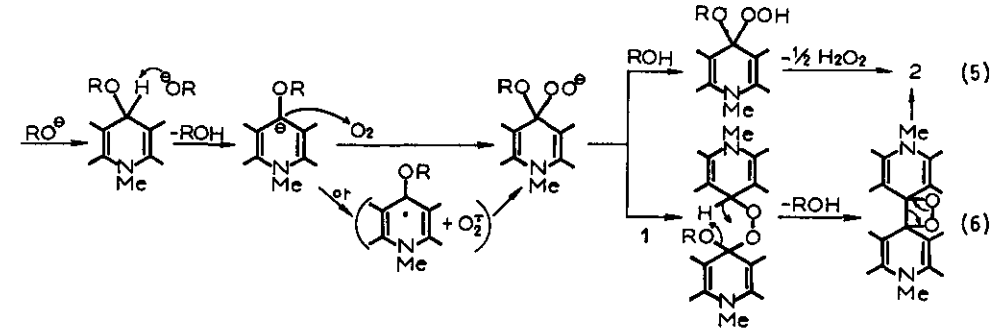
Kamiya and Sugimoto[12] have investigated the similar chemiluminescent systems, 9-alkyl- and 9-benzyl-10-methylacridinium methosulfates (**6**) in the presence of t-BuOK and O_2 in DMSO solution (Φ_{CL} 10^{-2}~10^{-4}) and suggested the reaction mechanism as shown below (scheme 3). The emitter is



$2^* + 8 \longrightarrow 2 + 8^*$; $8^* \longrightarrow 8 + h\nu$

probably the anhydrobase **8** excited by the ketones **2** primarily produced as the excited state(s). After mixing with t-BuOK in the absence of O_2, the solution of **6** did not give CL on exposure to O_2 gas. The mechanism seems to be similar to the CL of lucigenin.[3]

Rosenthal and Bercovici[13] had found that **2** in DMSO gave CL when treated with KO_2. The CL exhibited a broad emission band with three peaks, maxima at 470, 494, and 532 nm of the relative intensities 3:5:2, respectively. The wave length of CL shows that the present CL reactions do not result from the Rosenthal's mechanism (scheme 4).



The degradation energy of 67.3 kcal/mol, at least, is required for exciting 2 to the lowest singlet excited state.[1] (i) If one O_2 molecule oxidized one molecule of 1 to give one molecule of 2 and 1/2 molecule of H_2O_2,[5,14] the balance of the heat of reaction (ΔH) would be ΔH = + 5.6 kcal/mol[15] (scheme 5), which is not sufficient to excite 2. (ii) If one O_2 molecule oxidizes two molecules of 1 to give two molecules of 2 and H-OR, ΔH would be -113.5 kcal/mol,[15] which is sufficient for exciting 2 to its S_1 state (scheme 6). Thus, we prefer the latter mechanism (scheme 6) for explaining the present effective chemiluminescent reaction of 1a.

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6) Yellow granules: mp >300 °C; Anal. found, C, 59.28; H, 5.15%. Calcd. for $C_{15}H_{15}NO_4S$: C, 59.00; H,4.95%. MS (m/z) 194 (cation part); IR (KBr) 3000, 1390, 1220, 1170 cm^{-1}.
7) mp 170-185 °C dec. [lit. mp 183 °C dec. ; A. Albert, "The Acridines", St. Martin's Press, New York, N. Y., 1966, p. 343.]
8) Photometric determinations were made by measuring the output of R106 photomultiplier-photometers (Hitachi MPF-2A Fluorescence/Phosphorescence Photometer) exposed to the reacting solution. The values obtained were corrected for phototube spectral response. Quantum yields (Φ_{CL}) are relative to luminol.[9]
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11) GLC Conditions: Yanagimoto Yanaco G-1800F (FID); 10% Silicone GE-SE-30 on Diasolid L in 0.93 m x ϕ 4 mm stainless steel column; col. temp. 240°, inj. temp. 280°, carrier gas (N_2) 42.0 ml/min.

TLC Conditions: Silica gel 60 PF_{254}-gipshaltig (Merck, # 7749), thickness: 0.25 mm, $CHCl_3$.

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14) E. G. Janzen, J. B. Pickett, J. W. Happ, and W. deAngelis, J. Org. Chem., 1970, 35, 88.

15) From bond energies,[a,b]

	Energy spent (kcal/mol)		Energy gained (kcal/mol)		Balance (kcal/mol)
(i)	C-H	98.7	C=O	181	
	C=C	145.8	C-C	83	
	O=O	119.1	arom	43	
			1/2HOOH	51[c]	
		363.6		358	ΔH=+5.6

	Energy spent (kcal/mol)		Energy gained (kcal/mol)		Balance (kcal/mol)
(ii)	2C-H	197.4	2C=O	362	
	2C=C	291.6	2C-C	166	
	O=O	119.1	2H-OR	221.2	
			2arom	86	
		608.1/2		835.2/2	ΔH=-113.5

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