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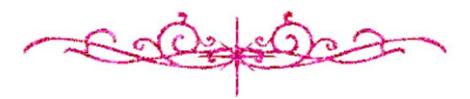
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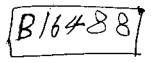
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PREPARATIVE AND MECHANISTIC INVESTIGATIONS OF SELECTED SULFUR CUMULENES



A Thesis Submitted by

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for

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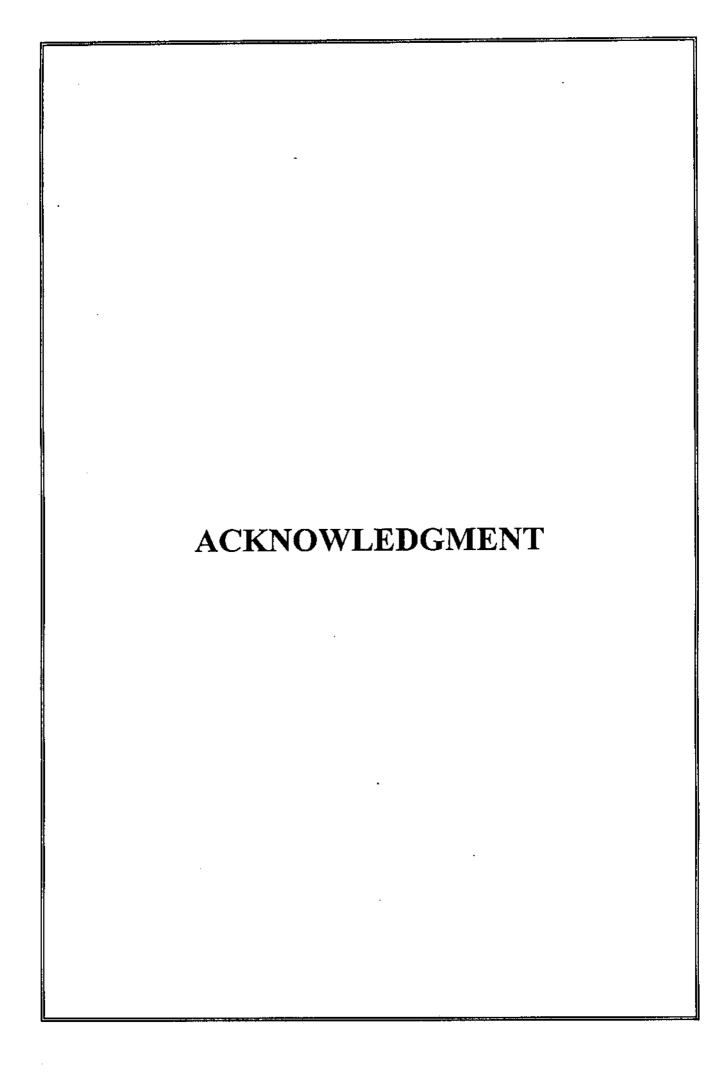
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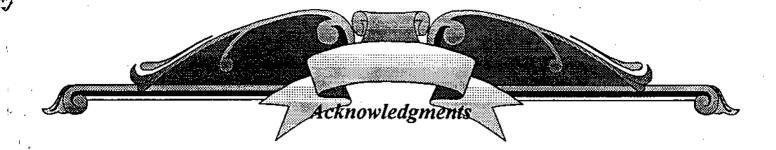
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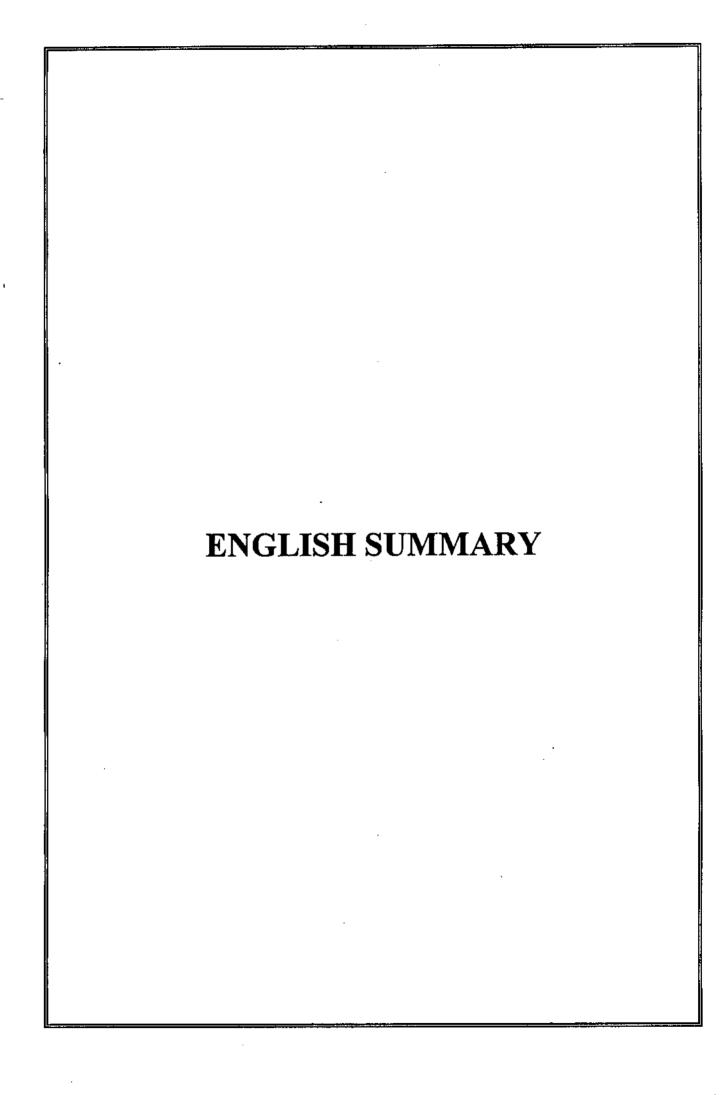
It would be impossible to mention all the people who have made these two years of my stay at the Technical University of Denmark a memorable and valuable part of my studies.

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Summary

1

The key intermediates for all subsequent work of this thesis were the 2,2-dialkylchroman-4-ones 190. The methodology for their preparation is well documented, 22 i.e. the reaction of 2-hydroxyacetophenone with the appropriate ketone in the presence of base (pyrrolidine). Compounds 190a-d were treated with thionyl chloride at room temperature overnight to give yellow crystals of α -chloro β -monooxo sulfenyl chlorides 191a-d. 27

Derivatization of sulfenyl chlorides with simple thiols such as thioacetic acid, thiobenzoic acid and thiophenol are uncomplicated to give the unsymmetrical disulfides 192a-j and 193.

The substitution of the sulfenyl chlorides 191 with cyanide ions takes a straightforward cause with formation of the thiocyanates 194a,c,d which apparently are undisposed to rearrangement to the corresponding isothiocyanates 218. The latter would have been interesting derivatives of the often elusive α-halo amines. As on ultimate proof an X-ray structure determination of 194a was performed. When methoxide ions were employed as nucleophile vis-à-vis 191 we obtained the sulfenyl acid methyl esters 195a,c corresponding to analogous observations. The alternative sulfoxide structure for 195a,c (as a consequence of ionization-recombination rearrangement of 195) could be excluded by spectroscopic arguments, i.e. the ¹H and ¹³C NMR resonances of the O-methyl group of the ester are compared with those of, say, methanol and dimethyl sulfoxide.

Sulfinate when reacting with the sulfenyl chlorides 191a-d gives concomitant substitution and reduction (with formation of the corresponding sulfonyl chloride as coproduct). This means that the treatment of 191a-d with sulfinate ions revealed the operation of two competing reactions, straightforward nucleophilic substitution at sulfenyl sulfur, i.e. formation of 196, and reduction to 197a-d with subsequent dimerization to the Diels-Alder dimer 198a-d.

Phosphine and iodide ions only effect reduction of our sulfenyl chlorides to give the Diels-Alder dimers 198 (with formation of iodine and triphenylphosphine oxide as coproduct, respectively). On the other hand, the reaction of sulfenyl chloride 33b¹⁶ with iodide ions stopped at the stage of the stable thiocarbonyl compound 1.¹⁰ This is the reverse of the ready chlorination of 1 to 33b.

The thicketone S-imides 199a-c were prepared from the corresponding α -chloro sulfenyl chlorides 191 and excess 1-adamantanamine. Interestingly, the more obvious procedure for the

preparation of 199, i.e. treatment of 191 with an equivalent amount of 1-adamantanamine in the presence of excess triethylamine, failed and only led to recovery of unreacted sulfenyl chlorides. When the 1-adamantyl group of the thione S-imides 199 was replaced by a *tert*-butyl group the corresponding crude thioketone S-imides were liquids at room temperature which resisted our attempts at purification.

The treatment of sulfenyl chlorides 191b,c with morpholine yielded the sulfenic acid morpholides 200b,c. Also sulfenyl chloride 33b yielded the sulfenic acid anilides 201a,b when treated with aniline derivatives, in both cases the α-chlorine atom of the starting sulfenyl chlorides 33b and 191 remaining unaffected.

Thiosulfines 176 and dithiiranes 181, are compounds of high topical interest. The generation of thiosulfines/dithiiranes 176/181 from α -chloroalkanesulfenyl chlorides via acetyl α -chloroalkyl disulfides, is a convenient "unzipping" reaction under mild conditions.

In our present study we wished to examine the generation and reactive behavior of β -monooxo thiosulfines 176/181 derived from 4-chromanones 190, i.e. 2,2-dialkyl-3-thioxochroman-4-one S-sulfides 202.

The cycloaddition chemistry ensuing after the smooth formation of thiosulfine 202 is rich and, for so far obscure reasons, noticeably dependent upon the nature of the simple alkyl substituents R^1 and R^2 . Thiosulfine 202 can disproportionate to the corresponding, highly reactive, 3-thioxochroman-4-one 197 and its S-disulfide 203. The former 197a can dimerize to the Diels-Alder dimers 198a. The formation of Diels-Alder dimers such as 198a from α -oxo thioketones has precedent in the work of Crossland. No straightforward evidence for the formation and subsequent fate of 203 can be derived from our present work.

The 1,2,4-trithiolanes 204a-d must be formed in a manner reminiscent of the chemistry Huisgen *et al.* encountered in the thiation of thioketones. No 1,2,3-trithiolanes were found in our reactions.

The 1,2,4,5-tetrathianes 205a,d isolated in our present study are most likely formed by a two-step dimerization of thiosulfine 202 since the concerted [3+3] dimerization of thiosulfine 202 is Woodward-Hoffmann forbidden.

However, in the three cases 202b, 202c, and 202d we find, in competition with the previously mentioned reactions, the novel reaction mode of a [3+5] cycloadditive dimerization of thiosulfine to form 1,3,4,5,6-oxatetrathiocine 206b-d.

In the case of thiosulfine 202d also a monomeric product is formed, i.e. the spiro[chroman-2,7'-[1,2,3,4,5,6]hexathiepane] 207d. The formation of sulfur-rich system like 207d from relatively simple precursors and unspecified sources of active sulfur has been observed on several occasions.

The chlorination of thione S-imide (E)- $76t^{16}$ with chlorine (or sulfuryl chloride, as observed in the present investigation) leads to dichloro(phenylthio)methyl p-tolyl sulfone 174^{43} and, presumably, tert-butyliminosulfinyl dichloride. 123

Not unexpectedly, dibromo(phenylthio)methyl p-tolyl sulfone 208 could be obtained smoothly from thione S-imide 76t and bromine. Compound 199a could likewise, by treatment with sulfuryl chloride, be converted to the corresponding gem-dichloro compound 93a.²⁷

Thionyl chloride converted 76t to the coresponding α -chloro sulfenyl chloride 33b. This novel metathesis should also yield the known N-sulfinyl-tert-butylamine¹²⁴ which was, however, not observed. Another unprecedented reaction was encountered when 76t was treated with morpholine-N-sulfenyl chloride. A net transfer of the tert-butylimino group from the thiocarbonyl S-imide to the sulfenyl chloride took place, yielding an (unobserved) chlorosulfinamidine and the known C-sulfonyldithioformate, the latter reacted with benzenesulfenyl chloride to give the known disulfide 82b.

The ozonolysis of 199a failed to give any direct evidence of the formation of sulfur trioxide derivatives 219, but only yielded 2,2-dimethylchroman-3,4-dione 209. An authentic sample of 209 was prepared by selenium dioxide oxidation of 2,2-dimethylchroman-4-one 190a.

We investigated the pyrolysis of 199a and 199c, respectively, in boiling chlorobezene with the expectation that extrusion of sulfur would lead to the corresponding imine 211. Much to our surprise no 211 could be isolated and the only well defined pyrolysis product was the 1,2,4-trithiolane 204a and 204c.

Finally, all the new compounds mentioned here were elucidated by elemental analysis, spectroscopy (IR, MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR) and most of the key compounds also elucidated by X-ray crystallography.