

Synthesis and *cis/trans* isomerism of *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines

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Dedicated to Professor N. S. Zefirov

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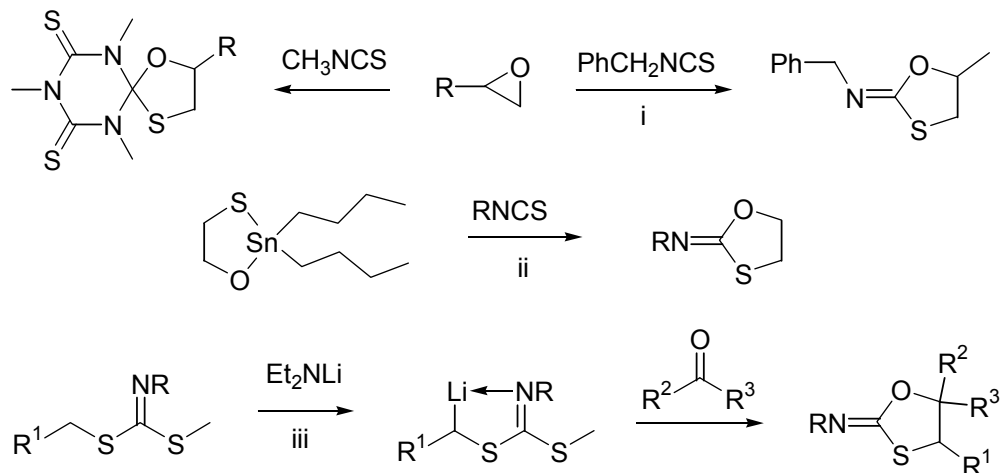
Abstract

Reaction of 1-adamantanol with 2-hydroxythiocyanates **2a-d** containing imide, ester or ether groups gives *N*-(1-adamantyl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines **6a-d**. Reaction of isborneol leads to *N*-bornyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines **6e,f**. The barrier of rotation for the imine double bond is measured based on ¹H NMR spectra.

Keywords: *N*-Substituted 1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines, 2-hydroxythiocyanates, *cis/trans*-isomerism

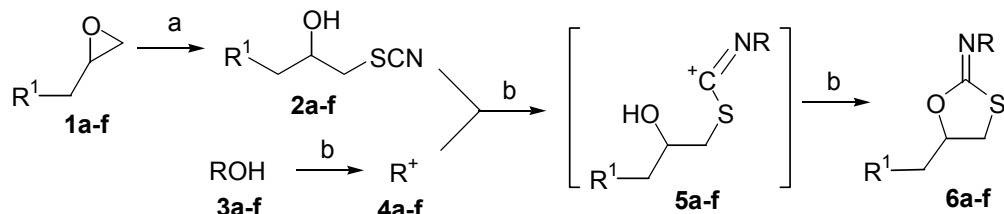
Introduction

Compounds containing an imine group are increasingly important in organic synthesis¹ and the mechanism of the *cis/trans* isomerization of imines is being studied in detail.² The 1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine structure includes an exocyclic imine group and can be used in organic synthesis for the preparation of biologically active compounds. 1,3-Oxathiolane-2-imines have been isolated as stable *N*-acyl or *N*-carbamoyl derivatives during the study of the conversion of oxiranes to thiiranes.³ Some of these derivatives are even biologically active compounds.⁴ Unlike the synthesis of *N*-aryl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines,⁵ the reaction of isothiocyanates with oxiranes catalyzed by Lewis acids cannot be used for preparing *N*-alkyl derivatives. The reaction of methyl isothiocyanate with 2-alkyl-oxiranes catalyzed by tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide (Scheme 1) yields 2-alkyl-6,8,10-trimethyl-7,9-dithio-6,8,10-triaza-1-oxa-4-thiaspiro[4.5]decane.⁶ Synthetic routes for the preparation of *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines (Scheme 1) include the following reactions: (i) reaction of benzylisothiocyanate with 2-methyloxirane catalyzed by the dimethyltin diiodide - HMPTA complex,^{5c} (ii) reaction of 2,2-di-*n*-butyl-1,3,2-oxathioannolane with alkyl isothiocyanates,⁷ (iii) reaction of *N,S,S'*-trialkyl iminodithiocarbonates with lithium diethylamide and aldehydes or ketones.⁸



Scheme 1

To develop a convenient preparative method for *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine, we have found the reaction⁹ of 2-hydroxythiocyanates **2** with 1-adamantyl or tert-butyl alcohols **3** (Scheme 2). The synthesis was successful because the alkylation of the thiocyanato group was faster than the intramolecular cyclization of 2-hydroxythiocyanate. It was established that 1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine does not react with tertiary cations, and less stable 3-acetylamino-, 3-hydroxy-, and 3-carboxy-1-adamantyl cations do not give *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines.^{9a} *N*-Alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines **6** exist as a mixture of *cis/trans*-isomers around the imine double bond which was confirmed by ¹H NMR spectra.^{9a} We describe here the preparation of *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines containing additional functional groups and the study of the *cis/trans*-isomerism of the *N*-1-adamantyl derivative.



Scheme 2. For designation of R and R¹ see Table 1. (a) NH₄SCN (0.9 equivalent), CH₃COOH, 10-15 °C, 1-2 h. (b) ROH (0.9 equivalent), H₂SO₄ – CH₃COOH, 0-10 °C, 1-2 h.

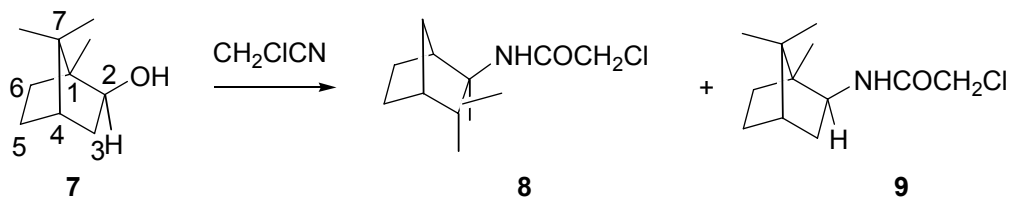
Table 1. Preparation of *N*-substituted 1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines **6a-f**

Entries	R ¹	R	Yield, %
a	Phthalimido	1-Adamantyl	69
b	PhCOO	1-Adamantyl	67
c	1-Adamantylacetoxo	1-Adamantyl	72
d	4-NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ O	1-Adamantyl	56
e	H	Isobornyl	54
f	Cl	Isobornyl	48

Results and Discussion

2-Hydroxythiocyanates react with tertiary alcohols in a mixture of sulfuric and acetic acids, which are to be neutralized in order to separate the products. These acidic conditions limit the substrates of the reaction, since the cations can lead to alkenes, polymerization products and rearrangements. Aryl groups can be involved in the alkylation by the cations. We have found that the compounds **1a-d** containing phthalimido, ester and ether groups yield 5-substituted *N*-(1-adamantyl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines **6a-d**. The compounds **6a-d** can be used to prepare 1,3-oxathiolane alcohols and amines, which are interesting for searching biologically active compounds.

Isoborneol is the first secondary alcohol to be successfully used to prepare *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines **6e,f**. Alkylation of 2-hydroxythiocyanate by isoborneol seems to be faster than the intramolecular cyclization. The first step of the process is the Ritter reaction employed for thiocyanates.¹⁰ But isoborneol can undergo the Wagner-Meerwein rearrangement in the course of the Ritter reaction. For example, the reaction of isoborneol (**7**) with chloroacetonitrile in sulfuric acid (Scheme 3) gives a 9:1 mixture of 3-*exo*-(chloroacetylamino)isocamphane (**8**) and 2-*exo*-(chloroacetylamino)bornane (**9**).¹¹

**Scheme 3.** Reaction of isoborneol with chloroacetonitrile.¹¹

The reaction of isoborneol with 2-hydroxythiocyanates **2e,f** yields the bornyl derivatives **6e,f**. The intermolecular reaction of the non-classical isobornyl cation with a thiocyanate group seems to be faster than the rearrangement of this cation to the isocamphane structure. The

structure of **6e,f** was confirmed by ^{13}C NMR spectra (Table 2). Signals of **6e** and isoborneol are very close to each other, whereas the spectrum of the isocamphane derivative **8** is quite different from **6e** and isoborneol. Signals of the carbon atoms located far from the polar substituent in **6e** and isoborneol have almost the same values. The signals of the isocamphane methylene carbon atoms occur at high field, whereas the methyl signals occur at low field, which can be explained by the position of these atoms and the functional group in the bicyclic cage structure.

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR Signals for bicyclic fragment of **6e**, **6f**, isoborneol (**7**) and 3-exo-(chloroacetylamino)isocamphane¹¹ (**8**)

Entries	^{13}C NMR
6e	49.5, 46.8 (C^1 , C^7); 71.9+72.3 (<i>cis+trans</i> 2-CHN); 37.3, 36.4, 27.4 (3- CH_2 , 5- CH_2 , 6- CH_2); 45.3 (4-CH); 20.4, 20.3 (7- CH_3); 12.1 (1- CH_3)
6f	49.9, 47.1 (C^1 , C^7); 72.6+72.7 (<i>cis+trans</i> 2-CHN); 36.5, 33.7, 27.5 (3- CH_2 , 5- CH_2 , 6- CH_2); 45.5 (4-CH); 20.6, 20.4 (7- CH_3); 12.3 (1- CH_3)
7	49.1, 46.5 (C^1 , C^7); 79.9 (2-CHO); 40.6, 34.1, 27.4 (3- CH_2 , 5- CH_2 , 6- CH_2); 45.3 (4-CH); 20.7, 20.3 (7- CH_3); 11.5 (1- CH_3)
8	50.2, 48.9 (1-CH, 4-CH); 44.6 (C^2); 64.5 (C^3); 22.9 (5- CH_2); 22.9 (6- CH_2); 34.5 (7- CH_2); 25.8, 22.8 (2- CH_3); 17.3 (3- CH_3)

The bornyl C^2 atom gives two NMR signals, which correspond to the *cis/trans* isomers. The imino carbon atom also gives two signals. To study the isomerism, ^1H NMR spectra were taken at temperatures 20-95 °C for *N*-(1-adamantyl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (**6g**). The multiplicity of the methylene heterocyclic protons disappears at 75 °C for CH_2S and at 85 °C for CH_2O (Fig. 1). The energy characteristics of the isomerization were calculated using the Eyring equation for the rates extracted from the ^1H NMR spectra by the MEXICO line-shape analysis.¹² The calculation of linear plot for $\ln(k/T)-\ln(K/h)$ vs $1000/T$ gave the following: slope= -7.32 ± 0.15 , intercept= -3.92 ± 0.42 ; where $\ln(K/h)=23.76024$,¹² slope= $\Delta H^\ddagger/R$, and intercept= $\Delta S^\ddagger/R$. The corresponding energies of activation are the following: $\Delta G_{298}^\ddagger = 70.6\pm 2.2$ kJ/mol, $\Delta H^\ddagger = 60.9\pm 1.2$ kJ/mol, $\Delta S^\ddagger = -33\pm 4$ J/(mol K). The close energy barriers have been found for *N*-substituted 2*H*-pyran-2-imines: $\Delta G_{Tc}^\ddagger = 73.5$ -80.7 kJ/mol for *N*-phenyl derivatives, and $\Delta G_{Tc}^\ddagger = 85.4$ -91.9 kJ/mol for *N*-isopropyl derivative.¹³ The lower barrier for *N*-(1-adamantyl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine compared to *N*-isopropyl-2*H*-pyran-2-imine can be explained by the conjugation of unshared electrons pairs of the two heteroatoms with the imine bond.

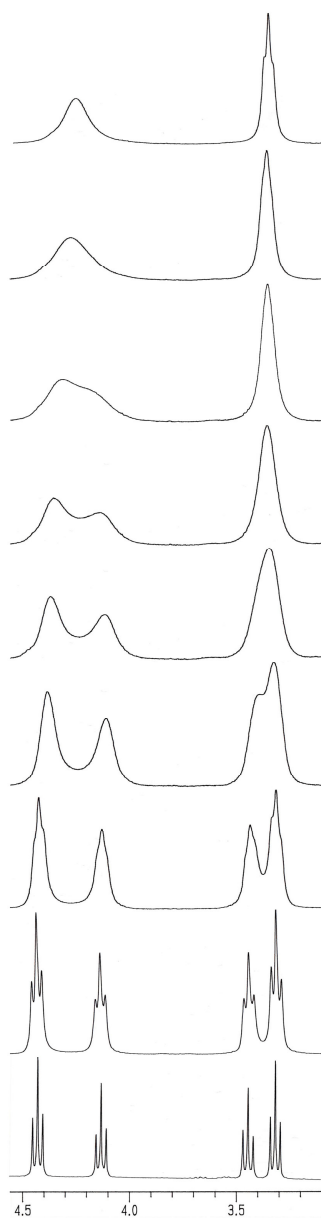


Figure 1. ¹H NMR spectra of *N*-(1-adamantyl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine at 30, 50, 60, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 °C starting from the bottom spectrum.

Conclusions

The new route for the preparation of *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines has been extended to oxiranes containing imide, ester and ether functional groups, and to isobornyl alcohols. The isobornyl cage does not undergo the isomerization during the reaction. Unfortunately, 2-adamantanol did not yield any alkylated products because of the intramolecular cyclization of 2-hydroxythiocyanate was faster than both the alkylation of the thiocyanate group by the 2-adamantyl cation and the isomerization of the latter to the 1-adamantyl cation. *cis/trans*-Isomerism of *N*-alkyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imines has been confirmed by ¹³C NMR data and the energy barrier of the rotation around the C=N bond has been calculated from the temperature dependence of ¹H NMR spectra.

Experimental Section

General Procedures. Melting points were determined on a hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR-8500S spectrometer, mass spectra were recorded using DEP mode on Finnigan DSQ GC-MS with an ionization potential of 70 eV, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ with TMS as the internal standard for ¹H (90 MHz) and ¹³C (22 MHz). ¹H NMR spectra at temperatures 20-100 °C were recorded in DMSO-d₆ for ¹H (300 MHz).

Materials. The oxiranes **1a-d** were prepared according to the following procedures mentioned in literature:¹⁴ *N*-glycidyl phthalimide (**1a**);^{14a} glycidyl benzoate (**1b**);^{14a} glycidyl 1-adamantylacetate (**1c**);^{14b} glycidyl 4-nitrophenyl ether (**1d**).^{14a}

General procedure for the preparation of 6a-d,g

A solution of ammonium thiocyanate (5 g, 0.065 mol) and oxirane **1a-d** (0.08 mol) in glacial acetic acid (15 ml, 0.25 mol) was stirred for 1-2 h. The acetic acid solution was added dropwise to a solution of 1-adamantanol (8 g, 0.053 mol) in sulfuric acid (30 ml, d 1.84) at 5-10 °C. The reaction mixture was poured on ice followed by extraction with chloroform and neutralization with sodium carbonate. The crude product was extracted with methylene chloride, filtered through a silica gel and the solvent was distilled off.

General procedure for the preparation of 6e-f

A solution of ammonium thiocyanate (5 g, 0.065 mol), oxirane 1e-f (0.08 mol) and isoborneol (8 g, 0.053 mol) in glacial acetic acid (15 ml, 0.25 mol) was stirred for 1-2 h. The acetic acid solution was added dropwise to sulfuric acid (30 ml, d 1.84) at 5-10 °C. The following work up was the same as for 6a-d.

***N*-(1-Adamantyl)-5-phthalimidomethyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6a).** White microcrystals from acetone (69%), mp 145-147 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1772, 1720, 1710, 1657, 1466, 1421, 1396, 1057, 1034, 721; ¹H NMR δ 1.70 (m, 6H), 1.99 (m, 6H), 2.18 (m, 3H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 5.4 Hz, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 4.6 Hz, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 4.95 (m, 1H), 7.90 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 29.1, 32.4 (CH₂S), 35.8, 39.3 (CH₂N), 41.1+41.8, 52.6+56.1, 74.0+79.9 (CHO), 122.8, 131.2, 133.8, 152.6+155.1 (C=N), 167.2 (C=O); *m/z*: 396 (M⁺, 11%), 219 (75%), 186 (100%), 175 (29%), 160 (45%), 135 (24%), 120 (15). Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₄N₂O₃S: C, 66.64; H, 6.10; N, 7.07. Found: C, 66.50; H, 5.98; N, 7.23.

***N*-(1-Adamantyl)-5-benzoyloxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6b).** White microcrystals from acetone (67%), mp 108-110 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1718, 1663, 1459, 1261, 1095, 1057, 1026, 716; ¹H NMR δ 1.68 (m, 6H), 1.97 (m, 6H), 2.15 (m, 3H), 3.4 (m, 2H), 4.4 (m, 2H), 4.55+4.84 (m, 1H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.56 (m, 1H), 8.07 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 29.7+29.9, 31.7+34.9 (CH₂S), 36.5+36.6, 41.8+42.5, 53.3+56.7 (C-N), 64.1+64.2 (CH₂O), 75.2+80.4 (CHO), 128.5, 129.4, 129.9, 133.5, 153.4+155.4 (C=N), 166.2 (C=O); MS *m/z*: 371 (M⁺, 12%), 194 (91%), 177 (12%), 161 (25%), 135 (35%), 120 (30%), 105 (100%), 93 (17%), 77 (38%), 72 (60%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₅NO₃S: C, 67.89; H, 6.78; N, 3.77. Found: C, 67.77; H, 6.49; N, 3.68.

***N*-(1-Adamantyl)-5-(1-adamantyl)acetoxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6c).** White microcrystals from pentane (72%), mp 84-88 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1734, 1664, 1452, 1138, 1055; ¹H NMR δ 1.62 (m, 21H), 2.0 (m, 11H), 3.3 (m, 2H), 4.3 (m, 2H), 4.52+4.82 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 28.6+29.7+29.9, 32.9+34.8 (CH₂S), 36.5+36.6+36.8, 41.8+42.4+42.5, 48.6+48.7, 53.2+55.5 (C-N), 62.9+63.2 (CH₂O), 75.1+80.7 (CHO), 153.1 (C=N), 171.2 (C=O); *m/z*: 443 (M⁺, 2%), 266 (9%), 234 (9%), 210 (9%), 193 (30%), 177 (35%), 149 (11%), 135 (100%), 120 (19%), 93 (21%), 79 (21%), 73 (30%), 72 (50%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₃₇NO₃S: C, 70.39; H, 8.41; N, 3.16. Found: C, 69.97; H, 8.37; N, 3.03.

***N*-(1-Adamantyl)-5-(4-nitrophenoxy)methyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6d).** White microcrystals from acetone (56%), mp 165-167 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1655, 1591, 1508, 1340, 1263, 1254, 1051, 1036, 851, 752; ¹H NMR δ 1.63 (m, 6H), 1.88 (m, 6H), 2.05 (m, 3H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 9.0 Hz, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.3H), 3.58 (dd, *J* = 9.0 Hz, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 0.7H), 4.27 (m, 2H), 4.73+5.07 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 29.7+29.8, 35.0 (CH₂S), 36.5, 41.8+42.5, 53.4 (C-N), 67.7 (CH₂O), 74.7 (CHO), 114.6, 126.0, 142.1, 162.6 (C=N); *m/z*: 388 (M⁺, 9%), 331 (12%), 211 (17%), 149 (7%), 135 (38%), 93 (15%), 79 (15%), 73 (100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₂O₄S: C, 61.84; H, 6.23; N, 7.21. Found: C, 61.39; H, 6.41; N, 7.40.

***N*-(2-*exo*-Bornyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6e).** White microcrystals from pentane (54%), mp 67-69 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1664, 1452, 1366, 1167, 1155, 1090, 1068, 1024; ¹H NMR δ 0.84 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 6H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.15-1.80 (m, 8H), 3.0 (m, 1H), 3.4 (m, 1H), 4.55 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 12.1 (1-CH₃), 18.9+19.0, 20.3+20.4 (7-CH₃), 27.4, 36.4, 37.3, 38.9 (CH₂S), 45.3, 46.8, 49.5, 71.9+72.3, 76.7, 157.0+159.0; *m/z*: 253 (M⁺, 3%), 238 (3%), 211 (18%), 179 (6%), 151 (88%), 136 (30%), 118 (100%), 108 (30%), 102 (65%), 95 (38%), 93 (34%), 81 (27%), 75 (28%), 74 (26%), 67 (30%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₃NOS: C, 66.36; H, 9.15; N, 5.53. Found: C, 66.20; H, 8.85; N, 5.41.

***N*-(2-*exo*-Bornyl)-5-chloromethyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6f).** White microcrystals from pentane (48%), mp 117-119 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1659, 1450, 1149, 1111, 1084, 1047, 901; ¹H NMR δ 0.81 (s, 6H), 0.99 (s, 3H), 1.69 (m, 6H), 2.16 (s, 1H), 2.83 (m, 1H), 3.3 (m, 2H), 3.6 (m, 2H), 4.63 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 12.3 (1-CH₃), 20.4+20.6 (7-CH₃), 27.5, 33.7, 36.5, 39.0 (CH₂S), 42.9 (CH₂Cl), 45.5, 47.1, 49.9, 72.6+72.7, 78.3, 157.7; *m/z*: 287 (M⁺, 1%), 272 (2%), 252 (12%), 211 (17%), 180 (17%), 179 (24%), 178 (27%), 177 (30%), 164 (15%), 152 (100%), 142 (79%), 136 (38%), 109 (28%), 108 (40%), 95 (52%), 93 (58%), 81 (27%), 67 (38%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₂ClNOS: C, 58.42; H, 7.70; N, 4.87. Found: C, 58.32; H, 7.87; N, 4.54.

***N*-(1-Adamantyl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-imine (6g).** White microcrystals from pentane (87%), mp 85-86 °C; IR (KBr / cm⁻¹) 1657, 1450, 1119, 1094, 1055, 1034; ¹H NMR δ 1.68 (m, 6H), 1.91 (m, 6H), 2.11 (m, 3H), 3.27 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 29.5+29.6, 30.6+33.3 (CH₂S), 36.3+36.4, 41.5+42.4, 52.8+56.2, 65.9+71.6 (CH₂O), 154.0+157.0 (C=N); *m/z*: 237 (M⁺, 24%), 180 (33%), 135 (100%), 120 (19%), 107 (21%), 95 (36%), 93 (34%), 79 (39%), 60 (53%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NOS: C, 65.72; H, 8.07; N, 5.90. Found: C, 65.78; H, 8.05; N, 5.69

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