

# Reduction of aromatic and hetero aromatic azo compounds with hydrazine hydrate

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**ABSTRACT:** Hydrazine hydrate, either with or without a catalyst, has reduced the azo compounds. When it comes to reducing azo functional groups to get new amines, this reaction is an appealing alternative. Using hydrazine hydrate, the authors of this review describe the reduction of aromatic or heteroaromatic azo compounds.

**KEYWORDS:** Reduction, azo compounds, uncatalyzed reduction, hydrazine hydrate

## 1. INTRODUCTION

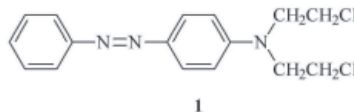
The aminogroup provides a platform for further derivatization, making the reduction of azo compounds to amines a valuable chemical process in synthetic organic chemistry. Many drugs, polymers, photographic materials, dyes, and pigments rely on amines in their manufacture as well. Reduction of azo(4,5,6) or reduction of aromatic nitro(1,2,3) compounds often yields the principal aromatic amines. It is usual practice to employ hydrazine hydrate to reduce nitro groups when catalysts are present (7,8). Additionally, azo compound reductions using hydrazine hydrate in the presence of a catalyst have been carried out (9,10). The conversion of azo-arenes to aminoarenes with hydrazine hydrate in the presence of aluminum powder in ethanol was established by Pasha and Nanjundas-wamy (11). With the use of hydrazine hydrate without a catalyst, Ergenç and Rollas (Açikkol) (12-21) have been doing azo compound reductions since 1972. Hydrazine hydrate reduces the azo derivative, as shown by Ross and Warwick (22). But we haven't isolated reduction products in our investigation. All things considered, the first writers to record the reductive cleavage of azo compounds to provide the corresponding amines without a catalyst were Ergenç and Rollas. The reduction of azo compounds utilizing hydrazine hydrate without a catalyst has been reported by Koppes et al. (25), Zhang and Wang (23), and Pasha and Nanjundas-wamy (24). Rollas used hydrazine hydrate as a catalyst-free synthesis method to produce specific aminophenyl modified 1,2,4-triazoles and 1,3,4-thiadiazoles from their corresponding azo compounds (26, 27). This

In 1972, Ergenç and Açikkol (Rollas) (12) published the first report of the reductive cleavage of azo compounds with hydrazine hydrate without a catalyst for the synthesis of 4-amino-

review will focus on the reductive cleavage of azo compounds with hydrazine hydrate as well as the reducing characteristics of hydrazine hydrate.

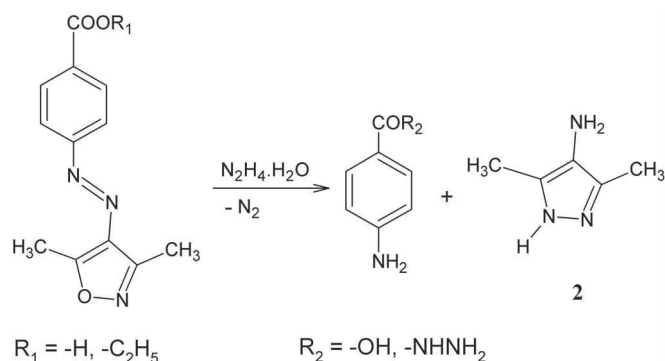
## 2. THE REDUCTION OF AZO COMPOUNDS USING HYDRAZINE HYDRATE WITHOUT CATALYST

Hydrazine hydrate is a strong reducing agent. Generally, it has been used the reduction of nitro group (28). In the reduction of the azo compounds with hydrazine hydrate, Raney nickel has been used as a catalyst (9, 29). In 1955, Ross and Warwick (22) showed that the azo derivatives could be reduced by hydrazine hydrate. They reported the tumour-growth inhibitory activity of azo-derivatives of aromatic nitrogen mustards and the reduction of azo-linkage with hydrazine hydrate to correlate the ease of reduction of N,N-bis(2-chloroethyl)-4-(phenyldiazenyl)aniline (**1**) with its biological activity. Therefore the substituted derivatives of **1** have been prepared. Of the reducing agents examined, the most consistent results were obtained using hydrazine hydrate. However in this research, the reduction products, hydrazo-compounds or amines, have not been isolated.



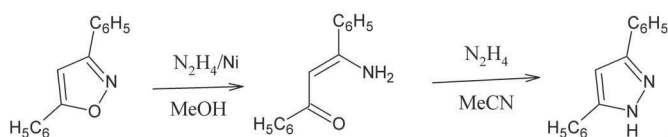
**FIGURE 1.** N,N-bis(2-chloroethyl)-4-(phenyldiazenyl)aniline.

3,5-dimethylpyrazole **2**. In this reaction, isoxazole ring was observed to be converted to pyrazole ring while the azo function is reduced to amino group. (Scheme 1).



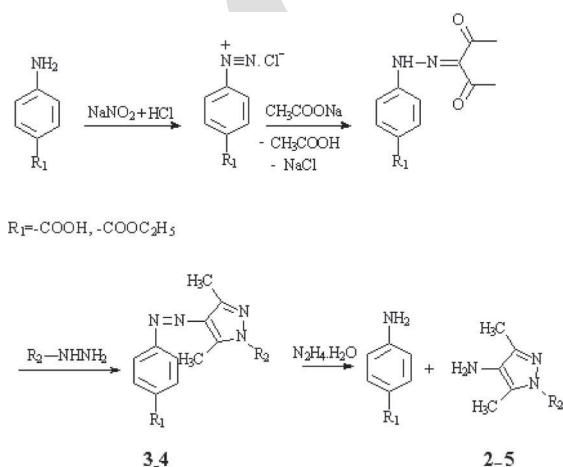
**SCHEME1.**Thereductionofazoiso-xazoleswithhydrazinehydrate.

Also, Sviridov et al. (30) reported the transformation of the iso-xazole into the pyrazole with hydrazine hydrate in the presence of Raney nickel catalyst (Scheme 2).



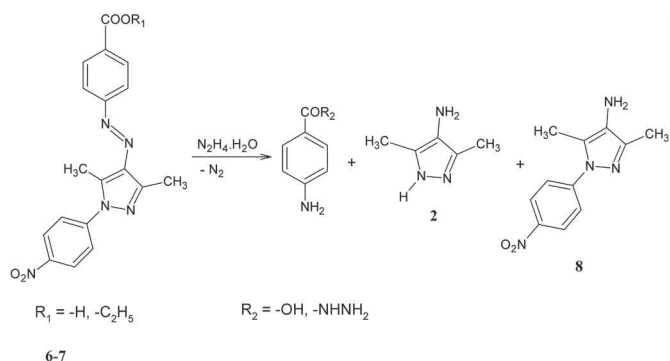
**SCHEME2.**Theconversionof3,5-diphenylisoxazoleto3,5-diphenylpyrazole.

A method developed by Rollas (31) for the synthesis of substituted amines from the corresponding heteroaromatic azo compounds. Aryldiazonium salts can be coupled with active aliphatic CH compounds. Therefore the aryldiazonium salts were coupled with acetylacetone and the obtained hydrazones, which are stable form of the coupling products, were condensed with hydrazine or substituted hydrazines to form azo-pyrazoles. These azopyrazoles were heated with an excess amount of hydrazine in ethanolic solution on a steam bath until red or orange colour of the solution changed into pale yellow and also until nitrogen no longer evolved.



**SCHEME3.**Thereductionofazopyrazoleswithhydrazinehydrate.

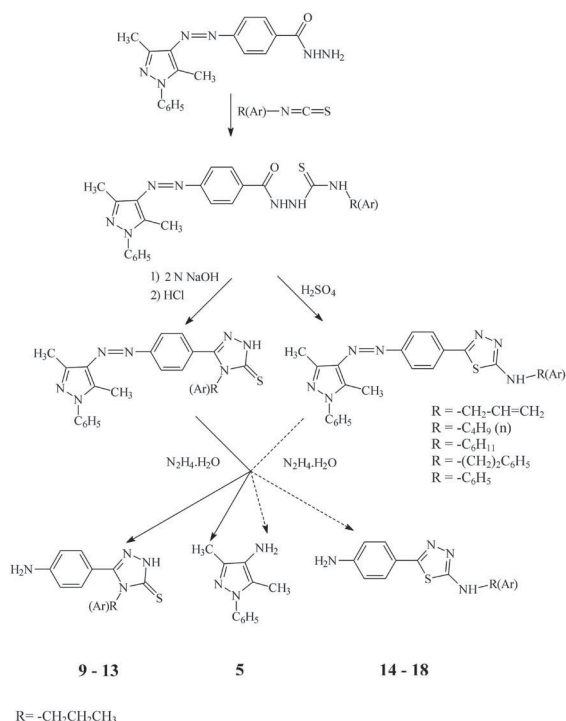
The reductive cleavage of 3 and 4 with hydrazine gave 4-amino-3,5-dimethylpyrazole 2 and the other amines, 4-aminobenzoic acid or 4-aminobenzoic acid hydrazide. In the experimental conditions the ester group has also been converted to hydrazide. The reduction of nitro group-containing azo compound, 3,5-dimethyl-4-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-phenylazo)-1-(4-nitrophenyl) pyrazole 7, with hydrazine hydrate in ethanol without catalyst is presented in Scheme 4. The carbon-nitrogen bond has also been reduced (14, 31).



**SCHEME4.**Thereductionofazopyrazolesbearingnitrogroup.

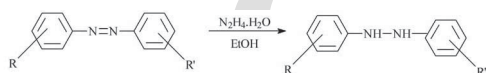
Recently, Rollas et al. (21) developed a new method for the synthesis of 4-amino-3,5-dimethylpyrazole. Aniline was used as the starting material instead of 4-aminobenzoic acid or ethyl 4-aminobenzoate. The reduction of the corresponding azo compound was afforded by lower amounts of hydrazine hydrate at room temperature. In this method, the separation of amines had been found easier than first method. Aniline was removed by extraction with diethyl ether. Since the reaction time was very long, the reduction of azo compounds was carried out with hydrazine hydrate (1:3) by refluxing in ethanol for 30 minutes to synthesize 4-amino-3,5-dimethylpyrazole (Rollas, unpublished data). Presence of excess hydrazine hydrate have been found unnecessary for the reduction.

The uncatalyzed reduction with hydrazine hydrate was applied to reduce different azo compounds containing 1,2,4-triazolin-5-thione and 1,3,4-thiadiazole rings by Rollas (32, 33). The synthetic pathway of the starting compounds which were obtained from the corresponding thiosemicarbazide derivatives (34) and target 1,2,4-triazolin-5-thiones 9-13 and 1,3,4-thiadiazoles 14-18 (26, 27) are presented in Scheme 5.



**SCHEME 5.** The reduction of azotriazoles and azothiadiazoles with hydrazine hydrate.

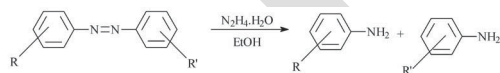
Zhang and Wang (23) reported the synthesis of certain hydrazo compounds starting from the azobenzene, substituted symmetric or nonsymmetric azobenzenes with the use of hydrazine hydrate in ethanol (Scheme 6).



R	H	4-CH <sub>3</sub>	4-Cl	4-OCH <sub>3</sub>	4-Br	3,4-CH <sub>3</sub>	4-F	4-Cl	4-Br	4-CH <sub>3</sub>	3-Cl	4-NO
R'	H	4'-CH <sub>3</sub>	4'-Cl	H	4'-Br	3',4'-CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H

**SCHEME 6.** The reduction of diazobenzenes to hydrazo compounds with hydrazine hydrate.

Pasha and Nanjundaswamy (24) described the synthesis of certain aromatic amines from the corresponding azoarenes with excess hydrazine hydrate without a catalyst in refluxing ethanol similar to Rollas's procedure (26, 27, 31).

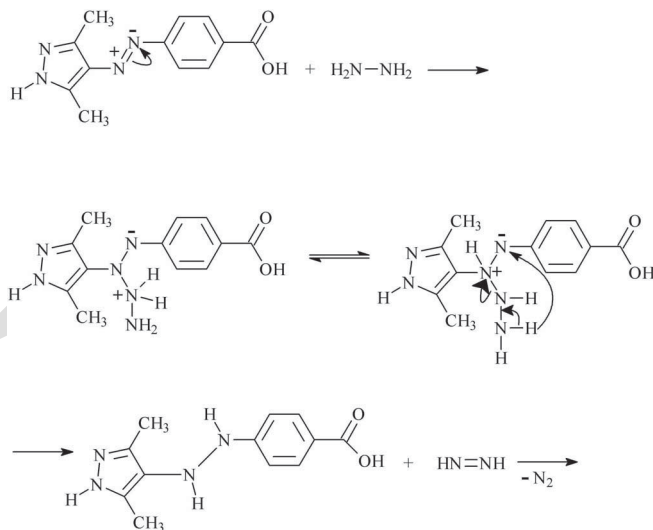


R	H	2-CH <sub>3</sub>	3-CH <sub>3</sub>	3-OCH <sub>3</sub>	2-OH	2-Cl	2-OH	2-COOH	4-COOH	4-NH <sub>2</sub>
R'	H	2'-CH <sub>3</sub>	3'-CH <sub>3</sub>	3'-OCH <sub>3</sub>	2'-OH	2'-Cl	H	4'-N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	H

**SCHEME 7.** The reduction of diazobenzenes to amines with hydrazine hydrate.

Scheme 8 shows a proposed method for the catalyst-free reduction of azo groups by hydrazine hydrate. Koppes et al. may provide evidence that supports the stated idea. The researchers found that diimide was effective in reducing azo compounds. The production of diimide from hydrazine hydrate could be obtained by an oxidant agent. Diimide could be produced by air oxygen. However, Koppes et al. also reduced azo compounds to hydrazo

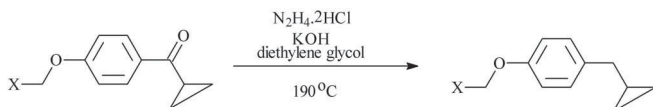
compounds in anaerobic conditions by protecting from their oxidation. In the hydrazine hydrate reduction, azo group may act as an oxidant. According to the procedure reported by Koppes et al., the minimum amount of hydrazine hydrate was used; therefore, azo compounds were only reduced to hydrazo compounds and the further reduction has not been occurred. We thought that the mechanism of reduction is unclear.



**SCHEME 8.** The proposed mechanism of the reduction of azo compounds with hydrazine hydrate.

### 3. OTHER REDUCTIONS WITH HYDRAZINE HYDRATE

Hydrazine hydrate has been used in the reduction of ketones. The Wolff-Kishner reduction is usually carried out by heating the ketone with hydrazine and alkali. In this procedure, hydrazine is not isolated. The mechanism of reduction involves base-catalyzed tautomerization of the hydrazone followed by loss of nitrogen. Dwivedi et al. (35) used phenyl cyclopropyl ketones as starting material for the reduction of ketones to methylene groups (Scheme 9).

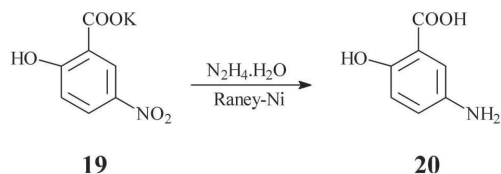


**SCHEME 9.** The reduction of cyclopropyl ketones with hydrazine hydrate (Wolff-Kishner reduction).

Many amines have been prepared by the reduction of corresponding nitro compounds. A large number of reducing agents have been used for the reduction of nitro group. One of the good reducing agents is hydrazine hydrate, which has been used

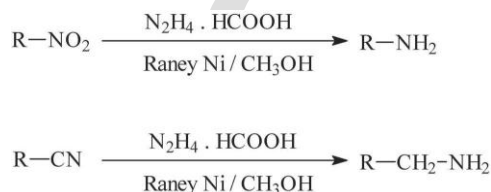
in the presence of heterogeneous catalyst. Vass et al. (36) described solvent-free reduction of aromatic nitro compounds with hydrazine hydrate supported on solid material, alumina, in the presence of  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  under microwave irradiation. Kumbhar et al. (37) reduced aromatic nitro compounds with hydrazine hydrate in the presence of oxide-MgO catalyst pre-pared from a Mg-Fe hydrotalcite precursor. It is reported that the catalyst was found to be highly active and selective.

Breviglieri et al. (38) reported the reduction of 5-nitrosalicylic acid potassium salt **19** to 5-aminosalicylic acid **20** with hydrazine hydrate in the presence of Raney nickel that has been used as a catalyst with hydrogen donor hydrazine.



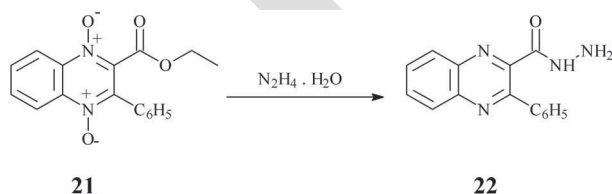
**FIGURE 2.** The reduction of 5-nitrosalicylic acid potassium salt to 5-aminosalicylic acid with hydrazine hydrate

Gowda S. and Gowda D.C. (39) reported the reduction of aliphatic and aromatic nitro compounds and nitriles to corresponding amines in the presence of Raney nickel and hydrazinium monoformate. The application of hydrazinium monoformate/Raney nickel is a new system of the reduction of nitro and nitrile groups (Scheme 10). Majid et al. (40) reported the reduction of an intermediate nitroso compound to amine by hydrazine hydrate without a catalyst.



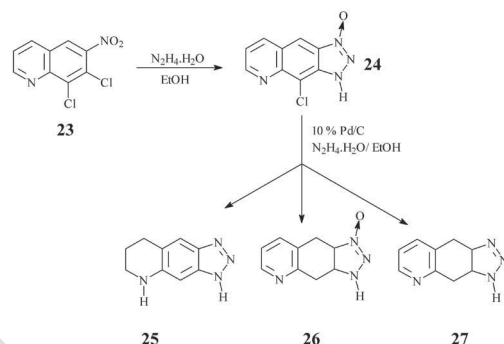
**SCHEME 10.** The reduction of nitro and nitrile groups.

Lima et al. (41) reported the reduction of ethyl 3-phenylquinoxaline-2-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide **21** to 3-phenyl-2-quinoxalinecarbohydrazide **22** with hydrazine hydrate.



**FIGURE 3.** The reduction of ethyl 3-phenylquinoxaline-2-carboxylate 1,4-di-N-oxide.

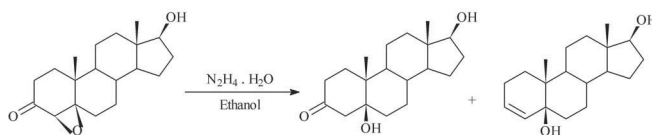
Carta and Paglietti (42) reported the synthesis of compound **24** starting from **23** in the presence of excess hydrazine hydrate in ethanol. In the further reduction of **24**, while the chlorine and N-oxide reduced by hydrazine hydrate and Pd/C catalyst, pyridine and benzene rings of quinoxaline reduced to dihydro tetrahydro products **25-27**.



**SCHEME 11.** The reduction of chlorine and N-oxide by hydrazine hydrate.

An essential step in organic synthesis for the synthesis of novel compounds is the reduction of carbon-carbon double bonds. Additionally, hydrazine hydrate has been used to reduce double bonds via a diimid ( $\text{HN=NH}$ ) intermediate (43). In addition to compounds 9 and 14, which also include reduced allyl groups, Rollas's technique (26,27) also yielded the reduced azo products (Scheme 5). Diimide has been synthesized from hydrazine hydrate in the presence of an azo group or oxygen in the air. The result is the reduction of the allyl group to the propyl group. The reduction of the allyl group to propyl does not occur in the presence of modest amounts of hydrazine hydrate, according to Rollas's modified reduction process (unpublished results). Amines were produced by reducing the azo group.

An essential step in the structural elution of natural compounds is the reduction of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -epoxy ketones to their corresponding  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketones. In moderate circumstances, utilizing hydrazine hydrate in a thiol (Scheme 12), Salvador et al. (44) obtained  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketones by reductive cleavage of the steroidal epoxy ketones.



**SCHEME 12.** The reduction of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -epoxy ketones to the corresponding  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketones.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Various techniques for the synthesis of aromatic or heteroaromatic primary amines have been taught, and the reduction reaction that is generated by using hydrazine hydroxide with or without a catalyst has been covered. One benefit of the suggested approach is that it allows for the preparation of primary amines with excellent yields. The uncatalyzed reductive cleavage of azo compounds with hydrazine hydrate is the primary subject of this review.

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