Fragmentation patterns in the electron impact mass spectra of 1,3,5-triazin-2-one derivatives

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Abstract
Fragmentation patterns in the electron impact (EI) mass spectra of a series of 5-substituted 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones, prepared from the reaction of dimethylolurea with selected primary amines, have been elucidated using a combination of high-resolution, comparative low-resolution and metastable peak analysis. In addition to characteristic fragmentations, in which the triazine nucleus remains intact, the 5-substituted 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones appear to exhibit a series of extrusion/ring-contraction processes, resulting in the formation of 3- and 4-membered ring fragments. Resonance-stabilised even-electron ions, arising, in each case, from loss of a hydrogen atom from the molecular ion, are considered pivotal in the formation of these heterocyclic fragments.

Keywords: Triazinone, mass spectrometry, fragmentation patterns

Introduction
The emission of formaldehyde from urea-formaldehyde (UF) resins may be reduced by decreasing the formaldehyde content and adding cross-linking agents such as ammonia or melamine during the resinification process. The inclusion of ammonia has been found to result in the formation of triazine-urea-formaldehyde resins, the presence of three reactive sites in the triazine nucleus permitting cross-linking. While the mass spectra of 1,3,5-triazines have been investigated, to our knowledge, no such studies of 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones have been reported. As
part of a study of UF resins, we have prepared a series of 5-substituted 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones and, here, we discuss the electron impact (EI) mass spectra of the latter systems.

Results and Discussion

The triazinones 3-8 were prepared, following Burke’s method, from dimethylolurea 1 and the corresponding primary amines 2 (Scheme 1). A combination of high-resolution, comparative low-resolution and metastable peak data was used to explore the fragmentation of these compounds. Selected MS data are summarised in Table 1 and the proposed fragmentation pathways are outlined in Schemes 2 and 3.

Table 1. Selected peaks (m/z; followed, in parentheses, by % relative abundance) from EI mass spectra of 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones 3-8, classified according to ion types A-I (Scheme 2)

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<th>Compd</th>
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<th>R²</th>
<th>R³</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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<td>(12.5)</td>
<td>(0.9)</td>
<td>(45.4)</td>
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<td>(1.5)</td>
<td>(4.4)</td>
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</table>

ᵃ Atomic composition of fragment confirmed by high resolution analysis; % relative abundance from high-resolution spectrum. ᵇ Low-resolution MS data. ᶜ In this case, ion E has same nominal mass (m/z 85) as fragment H. ᵈ % Relative abundance from low-resolution spectrum.

In all cases, loss of a hydrogen atom or an alkyl radical (R¹$) from the 5-substituent of the
molecular ion A would account for the corresponding even-electron species B’ and C (Scheme 2).

However, loss of a ring hydrogen would afford fragments of type B, in which delocalisation may be extended by involvement of the N(5) lone pair; consequently, ions of structural type B are considered more likely than the isomeric systems B’. Loss of the 5-substituent itself leads to the formation of cation D (m/z 100), which is common to all of the compounds examined; there is, in fact, metastable peak evidence for the direct formation of cation D from both the molecular ion A and the M-1 fragment B.

In addition to the foregoing fragmentations, in which the triazine nucleus remains intact, the 5-substituted 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones 3-8 appear to exhibit a series of extrusion/ring-contraction processes, resulting in the formation of 3- and 4-membered ring fragments. The resonance-stabilised cations B are considered pivotal in the formation of these heterocyclic fragments (E-I).

Thus, elimination of a neutral imine (R₂C=NR) from the cation B would afford, in each case, the common, diazolium ion E (m/z 85) (see Figure 1a), dehydrogenation of which gives cation F (m/z 83). On the other hand, extrusion of the neutral molecules, CH₂=NH or HN=C=O, from cations of type B would afford fragments which retain the 5-alkyl substituent and which have been tentatively formulated as the diazetinones G and their deoxo analogues H, respectively. Access to these latter ions (G and H) is attributed to the similar, but fragment-specific eliminations depicted in Figures 1b and 1c; while there is metastable peak support for the fragmentation, BG, there is similar evidence, in some cases, for the loss of CH₃NHS from the molecular ion, i.e. AG. Elimination of a moiety containing the 5-substituent (Figure 1d) would account for the common cation at m/z 56, tentatively formulated as the aziriniminium species I.
Scheme 2

Mass-spectral fragmentation pathways for the 1,3,5-triazin-2-ones 3 - 8. Accurate masses (m/z) are followed, in parentheses, by calculated formula masses for compound 3 (R¹ = Me, R² = R³ = H); an asterisk indicates a pathway supported by metastable peak data.

Accurate masses (m/z) are followed, in parentheses, by calculated formula masses; an asterisk indicates a pathway supported by metastable peak data.

The 5-benzyl derivative 8, not surprisingly, exhibits a number of additional, characteristic fragmentations, all of which are supported by high-resolution data (Scheme 3). The base peak, in this case, corresponds to the tropylium cation M (m/z 91), metastable peak data supporting its formation via the sequence, AGM.
Scheme 3

Additional mass-spectral fragmentation pathways for 5-benzyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-one 8.

Figure 1. Proposed fragmentations of the cations of type B to account for the formation of the heterocyclic fragments, E, G, H and I.
Experimental Section

General Procedures. NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl$_3$ on a Bruker AMX 400 NMR spectrometer and referenced using the solvent signals ($\delta_{\text{H}}$ 7.25 and $\delta_{\text{C}}$ 77.0 ppm). Low-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Hewlett-Packard 5988A and Finnigan Mat GCQ mass spectrometers. High-resolution EI data were collected on a VG-70SEQ mass spectrometer equipped with an MSS MASPEC II/32 data station (Cape Technikon Mass Spectrometry Unit), using high-resolution magnetic scans and B/E metastable scanning. Dimethylolurea 1 [m.p. 129-130°C (lit.$^7$ 126-129°C)] was prepared following a reported method.$^7$ The synthesis of the 1,3,5-triazone derivatives, of which compounds 3$^8$ and 7 [158-159 °C (lit.$^6$ 158 °C)] are known, is illustrated by the following example.

5-(2-hydroxyethyl)hexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (7). 2-Aminoethanol (2.5 ml, 0.042 mol) was added, with cooling, to dimethylolurea 1 (5.0 g, 0.042 mol) in water (7 ml). The resulting solution was heated at 90-100 °C for two hours and then kept at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the solid residue recrystallised twice from ethanol to afford 5-(2-hydroxyethyl)hexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one 7 (2.9 g, 47 %), (Found: M$^+$ 145.0853. Calc. for C$_5$H$_{11}$N$_3$O$_2$: M, 145.0851); $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (KBr/cm$^{-1}$) 3320 (OH), 3220 (NH) and 1660 (CO); $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (400 MHz; DMSO-$d_6$) 2.65 (2H, t, 1'-CH$_2$), 3.50 (2H, m, 2'-CH$_2$), 3.99 (4H, s, 2xCH$_2$), 4.51 (1H, br s, OH) and 6.27 (2H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (100 MHz; DMSO-$d_6$) 52.1 (1'-CH$_2$), 59.7 (2'-CH$_2$), 61.6 (2x CH$_2$) and 154.7 (CO); m/z 145 (M$^+$, 3.6 %) and 114 (100).

Analytical data for the new 1,3,5-traizinone derivatives prepared in this study are as follows.

5-Ethylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (3).$^8$ (2.0 g, 19 %), m.p. 156-158 °C. (Found: M$^+$ 129.0910. C$_5$H$_{11}$N$_3$O requires: M, 129.0902); $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (KBr/cm$^{-1}$) 3220 (NH) and 1650 (CO); $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (400 MHz; DMSO-$d_6$) 1.03 (3H, t, CH$_3$), 2.61 (2H, q, 1'-CH$_2$), 3.99 (4H, d, 2xCH$_2$) and 6.15 (2H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (100 MHz; DMSO-$d_6$) 52.1 (1'-CH$_2$), 59.7 (2'-CH$_2$), 61.6 (2x CH$_2$) and 154.7 (CO); m/z 129 (M$^+$, 30.2 %) and 128 (100).

5-Isopropylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (4). (1.9 g, 51 %), m.p.179-180 °C. (Found: M$^+$ 143.1064 C$_6$H$_{13}$N$_3$O requires: M, 143.1058); $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (hexachlorobutadiene mull / cm$^{-1}$) 3226 (NH) and 1673 (CO); $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (400 MHz; DMSO-$d_6$) 1.05 (6H, d, 2xCH$_3$), 2.93 (1H, septet, CH), 4.06 (4H, d, 2xCH$_2$) and 6.18 (2H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (100 MHz; DMSO-$d_6$) 21.0 (2xCH$_3$), 45.9 (CH), 58.5 (2xCH$_2$) and 155.0 (CO); m/z 143 (M$^+$,13.0%) and 128 (100).
5-t-Butylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (5). (2.7 g, 41 %), m.p. 181-182 °C. (Found: M$^+$ 157.1209. C$_7$H$_{15}$N$_3$O requires: M, 157.1215); $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (KBr/cm$^{-1}$) 3220 (NH) and 1690 (CO); $\delta$H (400 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) 28.2 (3xCH$_3$), 52.9 [(CH$_3$)$_3$C], 56.7 (2xCH$_2$) and 155.4 (CO); m/z 157 (M$^+$, 11.6 %) and 58 (100)

5-Butylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (6). (1.5 g, 23 %), m.p.128-130 °C (Found: M$^+$ 157.1218. C$_7$H$_{15}$N$_3$O requires: M, 157.1215); $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (hexachlorobutadiene mull /cm$^{-1}$) 3223 (NH) and 1666 (CO); $\delta$H (400 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) 0.88 (3H, t, CH$_3$), 1.32 (2H, m, CH$_3$CH$_2$), 1.40 (2H, m, NCH$_2$CH$_2$), 2.55 (2H, t, NCH$_2$CH$_2$), 3.97 (4H, d, 2xCH$_2$) and 6.25 (2H, br s, NH); $\delta$C (100 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) 13.7 (CH$_3$), 19.8, 29.5 and 48.8 ([CH$_2$]$_3$), 60.8 (2xCH$_2$) and 154.7 (CO); m/z 157 (M$^+$, 27.5 %) and 42 (100).

5-Benzylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (8). (0.4 g, 5 %), m.p.190-192 °C. (Found: M$^+$ 191.1050. C$_{10}$H$_{13}$N$_3$O requires: M, 191.1058); $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (hexachlorobutadiene mull /cm$^{-1}$) 3062 (NH) and 1681 (CO); $\delta$H (400 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) 3.78 (2H, s, CH$_2$Ph), 3.99 (4H, d, 2xCH$_2$), 6.35 (2H, br s, NH), 7.25 - 7.34 (5H, ArH); $\delta$C (100 MHz; DMSO-d$_6$) 53.3 (CH$_2$Ph), 60.5 (2xCH$_2$), 127.1, 128.2, 128.7 and 138.2 (ArC) and 154.6 (CO); m/z 191 (M$^+$, 0.9%) and 91 (100).

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References

8. This compound has been reported as a component in a resin mixture, but does not appear to
have been isolated or characterized previously.