nickel(II) complex, and C–H in-plane bending vibration bands appear at 760 and 772 cm\(^{-1}\),
giving sharp medium lines.

The nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum of this diamagnetic complex (3) shows \(A_2B_2\)
type resonance lines of phenylene ring at \(\delta 6.65\) and 6.95 and methine proton singlet line at
\(\delta 5.53\) and two methyl proton singlet lines at \(\delta 2.25\) and 1.90.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{H}_3\text{C} & \quad \text{OH} \\
\text{H}_3\text{C} & \quad \text{O} \\
\text{H}_3\text{C} & \quad \text{O} \\
\text{N} & \quad \text{N} \\
\text{N} & \quad \text{N} \\
\text{H} & \quad \text{H} \\
\text{CH}_3 & \\
\text{CH}_3 & \\
\text{CH}_3 & \\
\text{CH}_3 & \\
\text{H} & \quad \text{H} \\
\text{Ni} & \quad \text{Ni} \\
\text{H} & \quad \text{H} \\
\text{H} & \quad \text{H} \\
\text{Cl}^{-} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

Experimental

Reaction of Bis(o-phenylenediamine)nickel(II) Chloride and Acetylacetone—Bis(o-phenylenediamine)-
nickel(II) chloride dihydrate (1.8 g; 0.003 mol) and acetylacetone (1.2 g; 0.012 mol) were allowed to react in
EtOH (100 ml) at room temperature with stirring. After stirring for 4 hr, the resulting bis(acetylacetonato)-
nickel(II) dihydrate was filtered off, and the violet filtrate was evaporated to dryness and extracted with hot
benzene. The wine red extract was evaporated and the residue was recrystallized from benzene-hexane.
Bis(acetylacetonato)(o-phenylenediamine)nickel(II) complex (3) was obtained as deep-purple needles, mp
218.5—219° (0.13 g; 13% yield). *Anal. Calcd. for C\(_{18}\)H\(_{17}\)O\(_2\)N\(_2\)Ni: C, 58.41; H, 5.48; N, 8.73. Found: C,
58.49; H, 5.53; N, 8.73.*

A violet product (1.1 g) was obtained from the insoluble part of the above benzene extraction. It was
probably a nickel complex. Treatment of this nickel complex with 10% NaOH gave 2,4-dimethyl-1,5-benzodi-
azeepinium chloride, mp 131—132°. This violet product seems to be a mixture of the nickel complex of 2,4-
dimethyl-1,5-benzodiazepinium chloride\(^*\) and 2,4-dimethyl-1,5-benzodiazepinium chloride but its purification
failed.

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Reaction of Schiff Bases with Trichloroacetyl Chloride in the
Presence of Triphenylphosphine

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It has now been found that trichloroacetyl chloride is capable to react with Schiff bases
in the presence of triphenylphosphine to give 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinones. Mechanistically
the reaction appears to involve the chlorine cation extraction from the initially formed adduct
by triphenylphosphine.

In an earlier paper\(^2\) we have reported the 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone synthesis by the
reaction of Schiff bases of N-benzyldieneamine type with trichloroacetic anhydride. It was
revealed that this reaction proceeds through the adduct intermediate, N-(\(\alpha\)-trichloroacetoxy-

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1) Location: 2-2-1, Oshika, Shizuoka.
benzyl)trichloroacetamide, and is unique in the chlorine cation extraction from N-trichloroacetyl group by trichloromethyl anion derived through the decarboxylation of trichloroacetate anion, as in the following.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ArCH=NAr}' \text{ (or R)} & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{+(CCl}_3\text{CO})_2\text{O}} \quad \text{ArCH-NAr}' \text{ (or R)} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \xrightarrow{-\text{CO}_2} \quad \text{ArCH-NAr}' \text{ (or R)} \\
\text{Cl}_2\text{C-CO} & \quad \text{ArCH-NAr}' \text{ (or R)} \\
\end{align*}
\]

As previously known with acyl halides, \(^3\) trichloroacetyl chloride exhibited an adduct formation when mixed with N-benzylideneaniline (I) in solution at room temperature. A chloroform solution of I and trichloroacetyl chloride in 1:1 molar proportion exhibited an existence of the adduct, N-(a-chlorobenzyl)trichloroacetanilide (II), which was evidenced by the following spectral assignment. A \(\nu=\text{C}=\text{O}\) stretching absorption in its infrared (IR) spectrum appeared at 1695 cm\(^{-1}\) is well agreement with that (1697 cm\(^{-1}\)) of trichloroacetanilide and in its nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrum the methine proton signal at \(\delta 7.68\) ppm showed a reasonable shift to higher magnetic field when compared with that (\(\delta 8.32\) ppm) of the starting I. Therefore, if the chlorine cation extraction from N-trichloroacetyl group of this adduct could be possible, 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone formation might occur similarly to the case of using trichloroacetic anhydride. In the literature\(^4\) the reaction of trichloroacetamides induced by trivalent phosphorous compounds has been stated to involve the chlorine cation extraction, yielding trichlorovinylamines. We succeeded in obtaining 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone, when triphenylphosphine was added to a dichloromethane solution of the adduct, II, at room temperature. On standing a dichloromethane solution of I, trichloroacetyl chloride and triphenylphosphine in 1:1:1.2 molar proportion 3,3-dichloro-1,4-diphenyl-2-azetidinone (III) was obtained in 62\% yield.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{PhCH=NPh + CCl}_3\text{COCl} & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{PhP}} \quad \text{PhCH-NPh} \\
\text{I} & \quad \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 & \quad \text{PhCH-NPh} \\
& \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Cl}_2\text{C}-\text{CO}} \quad \text{PhCH-NPh} \\
& \quad \text{Cl}_2\text{C}-\text{CO} & \quad \text{PhCH-NPh} \\
& \quad \text{II} & \quad \text{III}
\end{align*}
\]

In comparison the use of hexamethylphosphorous triamide in place of triphenylphosphine under the same conditions gave III (26\% yield) and that of triphenylphosphite resulted in no formation of the product. However the latter reacted in chlorobenzene on refluxing to give a product, mp 152—152.5 \(^\circ\) (24\% yield), after hydrolysis, in addition to III (8\% yield). This product was assigned as a-anilinobenzylphosphonic acid diphenyl ester (IV) mostly on the basis of NMR evidence where a large size of the coupling \((J=12.8\text{ Hz})\) arising at the methine proton was indicative of the carbon-phosphorous bond.


When we speculate on a mechanism for the 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone formation, the reaction may involve the chlorine cation extraction by triphenylphosphine from trichloroacetyl group of the adduct followed by an intramolecular nucleophilic substitution by the resultant carbamion, as shown in the following. The leaving triphenylphosphine dichloride in the above path was isolated as triphenylphosphine oxide from the reaction mixture through hydrolysis.

\[
\begin{align*}
I + \text{CCl}_3\text{COCl} & \xrightarrow{\text{PhCH–NPh} \quad \text{PhCH–NPh}} \quad \text{PhCH–NPh} \quad \text{PhCH–NPh} \\
\text{Cl} & \quad \text{CO} \quad \text{Cl} & \quad \text{CO} \\
\text{CCl}_3 & \quad \text{CCl}_3 & \quad \text{Ph}, \text{PCl} \quad \text{CCl}_3 \\
\text{II} & & \text{III} \\
\end{align*}
\]

The formation of IV by the use of triphenylphosphite may be brought about by the following mechanistic path.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{PhCH–NPh} \quad \text{PhCH–NPh} & \quad \text{PhCH–NPh} \\
\text{Cl} & \quad \text{Cl} & \quad \text{Cl} \\
\text{CO} & \quad \text{CO} & \quad \text{CO} \\
\text{CCl}_3 & \quad \text{CCl}_3 & \quad \text{CCl}_3 \\
\text{II} & & \text{IV} \\
\end{align*}
\]

By the use of triphenylphosphine the reaction of trichloroacetyl chloride was extensively examined with a number of Schiff bases of the type ArCH=NAr' (or R) under standardized conditions standing their dichloromethane solutions at room temperature. As summarized in Table I the corresponding 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidiones were successfully synthesized by the reaction in fair yields. Thus 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone analogs were generally synthesized from Schiff bases by the reaction with trichloroacetyl chloride in the presence of triphenylphosphine as well as by the previously reported reaction with trichloroacetyl anhydride.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ArCH=NAr' (or R)</th>
<th>CCl₃COCl, Ph₂P</th>
<th>ArCH=NAr' (or R)</th>
<th>Cl₃C–CO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ar</td>
<td>Ar' (or R)</td>
<td>Yield (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₆H₅</td>
<td>C₆H₅</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-CH₃OC₆H₄</td>
<td>C₆H₅</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-O₃NC₆H₄</td>
<td>C₆H₅</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₆H₅</td>
<td>C₆H₅OC₆H₅-p</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₄H₅</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₄H₅</td>
<td>CH₃</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

molar ratio: Schiff base (0.02 mole):trichloroacetyl chloride: triphenylphosphine = 1:1:1.2
solvent: dichloromethane (30 ml)

Experimental⁵)

General Procedure for Reaction of Schiff Bases with Trichloroacetyl Chloride in the Presence of Triphenylphosphine —— The examined runs shown in Table I were carried out by the following general procedures. To a solution of each 0.02 mole of the Schiff bases in 20 ml of dry CH₂Cl₂ was added 0.02 mole of trichloroacetyl chloride on cooling. To this solution a solution of 0.024 mole of triphenylphosphine in 10 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was added on cooling for 1 hr, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature overnight. In

⁵) All melting points are uncorrected. IR spectra were determined on a Hitachi EPI-G2 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were taken at 60 MHz with a Hitachi R-24 spectrometer using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard.
the use of N-(\(\rho\)-methoxybenzylidene)aniline most of the product, 3,3-dichloro-4-(\(\rho\)-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-2-azetidinone, was deposited in the reaction mixture. After washed with sulfuric acid, aqueous NaHCO₃ and then water, the dichloromethane solution was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give crystals of the 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone product, which were recrystallized from an appropriate solvent.

In the above the following procedures for the product isolation were also applicable instead. The reaction solution was washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The resulting residue was triturated with EtOH, whereupon most of the 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinone product remained undissolved. The residue obtained by concentration of the ethanolic solution was mostly composed of triphenylphosphine oxide.

The run with N-benzylidenemethylamine is an exception of the above procedure. The concentration residue of the washed and dried reaction solution was repeatedly washed with \(\pi\)-hexane under reflux, whereupon triphenylphosphine oxide remained undissolved. The combined \(\pi\)-hexane washings were concentrated and the resulting residue was fractionally distilled to give 3,3-dichloro-1-methyl-4-phenyl-2-azetidinone.

The following with their melting points are the obtained 3,3-dichloro-2-azetidinones, yields of which are listed in Table I; 3,3-dichloro-1,4-diphenyl-2-azetidinone (mp 161—162\(^\circ\), lit.\(^6\) mp 164\(^\circ\), lit.\(^6\) mp 161—162\(^\circ\), 3,3-dichloro-4-(\(\rho\)-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-2-azetidinone (mp 156—157\(^\circ\), lit.\(^7\) mp 154—155\(^\circ\), 3,3-dichloro-4-(\(\rho\)-nitrophenyl)-1-phenyl-2-azetidinone (mp 147.5—148\(^\circ\), lit.\(^6\) mp 158\(^\circ\), lit.\(^6\) mp 150—151\(^\circ\), 3,3-dichloro-1-(\(\rho\)-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-2-azetidinone (mp 110—111\(^\circ\), lit.\(^6\) mp 118\(^\circ\), lit.\(^6\) mp 110.5—112\(^\circ\), 3,3-dichloro-1-cyclohexyl-4-phenyl-2-azetidinone (mp 97—98\(^\circ\), lit.\(^9\) mp 98—98.5\(^\circ\), and 3,3-dichloro-1-methyl-4-phenyl-2-azetidinone (mp 88—89\(^\circ\), lit.\(^9\) 88—89.5\(^\circ\)). The melting points of these products were undepressed by admixture with authentic specimens obtained in our previous work. Their IR spectra were well consistent with those of authentic specimens.

**Reaction of N-Benzylideneaniline with Trichloroacetyl Chloride in the Presence of Hexamethylphosphorous Triamide** — By the use of hexamethylphosphorous triamide a reaction of N-benzylideneaniline (I) with trichloroacetyl chloride was carried out by the same way as described in the above general procedure. After washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ the reaction solution was concentrated to give a pasty residue, which was triturated with a small amount of EtOH. As insoluble crystals, 3,3-dichloro-1,4-diphenyl-2-azetidinone (III), mp 159—160\(^\circ\), was obtained in 26% yield.

**Reaction of N-Benzylideneaniline with Trichloroacetyl Chloride in the Presence of Triphenylphosphite** — To a solution of 3.6 g of I and 3.8 g of trichloroacetyl chloride in 30 ml of chlorobenzene 6.2 g of triphenylphosphite was added and the mixture was refluxed for 5 hr. The reaction solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting oily residue was diluted with 40 ml of wet ether and allowed to stand overnight. Deposited crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized from EtOH to give 2.0 g (24%) of \(\alpha\)-anilinobenzylphosphonic acid diphenyl ester (IV) as prisms, mp 152—152.5\(^\circ\). *Anal. Calcd.* for C₃₆H₄₄O₈NP: C, 72.28; H, 5.34; N, 3.37. *Found:* C, 71.77; H, 5.31; N, 3.27. *IR ν\(_{max}\)* 3345 cm\(^{-1}\) (NH). *NMR δ* (in CDC\(_3\)): 4.50 (1H, broad, >NH), 5.06 (1H, doublet, \(J = 12.8\) Hz, >CH₂), 6.45—7.7 (20H, multiplet, 4 x C₆H₅). The etheral filtrate was washed with aqueous K₂CO₃ dried over K₂CO₃ and concentrated. Distillation of the resulting residue under 0.2 mmHg at above 200\(^\circ\) of bath temperature gave a viscous oil, which was triturated with ether to give crystals, 0.40 g (8%) of III, mp 156—158\(^\circ\).

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