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PROCESS OF PREPARING DIHYDROPTERINS

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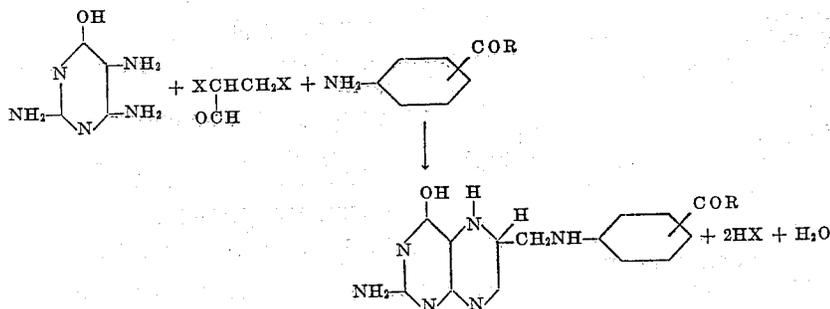
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1 Claim. (Cl. 260—251.5)

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This invention relates to organic compounds possessing biological activity and other useful properties and to processes of preparing the same.

In our U. S. Patent 2,500,296 issued March 14, 1950, of which this is a continuation-in-part, we disclosed that new organic compounds could be prepared by the reaction of 2,4,5-triamino-6-hydroxypyrimidine, and alpha,beta-dihalo-propionaldehyde, and aminobenzoic acid or salts, esters, and amides thereof. The reaction was illustrated therein by the following equation:



in which X is a halogen and R is —OH, —OR', or —NR''R''', R' being an alkyl radical and R'' and R''' being hydrogen or aliphatic or aromatic radicals.

As stated therein, two hydrogen atoms of the pyrazyl ring of the product were removed to yield compounds possessing useful biological activity, for example, pteric acid, pteroylglutamic acid, and others. The present application describes in greater particularity dihydroptericoic acid and its salts, esters and amides, which are obtained in that process as intermediates.

In our aforesaid earlier filed application the dihydropterins obtained as intermediates were oxidized under the conditions of the process and converted into pteric acid, esters and amides thereof without isolation from the reaction mixture. Because of the many by-products associated with the reaction, it is not generally feasible to isolate the dihydropterins from the crude reaction mixture, the principal reason being that these dihydropterins are readily oxidized during the purification procedure, particularly in the presence of the various by-products of the reaction. We have found that for purposes of obtaining the product in a high state of purity it is better to first obtain pteric acid or one of its salts, esters, and amides and thereafter reduce this purified material to the desired dihydro form.

To obtain the dihydroptericoic acid and its salts, esters, and amides of the present invention in crude form we carry out the reaction described above under non-oxidizing conditions using

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2,4,5-triamino-6-hydroxypyrimidine, or one of its tautomers, with one of the several alpha,beta-dihalo-propionaldehydes, such as alpha,beta-dibromopropionaldehyde, alpha,beta-dichloropropionaldehyde, or one of these compounds in the form of its acetal. Also, as in our earlier application, we may use as the third reactant p-aminobenzoic acid or one of its various salts, esters, and amides, particularly those amides of amino acids, such as p-aminobenzoylglutamic acid, p-aminobenzoylaspartic acid, p-aminobenzoyldiglutamylglutamic acid, and the like.

To prepare the dihydropterins in purer form a suitable pterin, such as pteroylglutamic acid, pteroyldiglutamylglutamic acid, pteroylaspartic acid, pteric acid, or the like, is first prepared and then reduced, for example, with platinum oxide and hydrogen, zinc dust in alkali, or other reducing agents which do not carry the reduction beyond the desired dihydro condition. The isolated crystalline product appears to be quite stable. To be more definite, the following examples of typical reductions and the characteristics of the resulting dihydropterin will be given.

Example 1

Platinum oxide (250 mgs.), 25 cc. of water and three drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid were placed in a reduction bottle and the catalyst activated with hydrogen. To this mixture was added a solution of 3.0 grams of pteroylglutamic acid in 70 cc. of .6 N sodium hydroxide. The material was then reduced at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. It required about five hours to reduce, during which time approximately 165 cc. of hydrogen were absorbed. The calculated amount necessary to reduce the compound to the dihydro form is 153 cc. The mixture was then treated with a small amount of charcoal, filtered, and the filtrate immediately cooled to 10° C. It was acidified to pH 2.7, cooled for thirty minutes, centrifuged, washed with water, methanol and ether, and dried; yield 2.65 grams.

This material was purified as follows: 1.75 grams of the product were dissolved in 20 cc.