# CHAPTER 19

Polycyclic And Heterocyclic Aromatic Compounds

1

# Nomenclature of Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds

# Polycyclic aromatic compounds have two or more benzene rings fused together



# Monosubstituted Naphthalene is often designated by Greak Letter





### 1-nitronaphthalene β-nitronaphthalene



2-naphthol β-naphthol



1,5-dichloronaphthalene

# **More Naming**



#### 9,10-dibromoanthracene



#### 9,10-dimethoxy phenanthrene

# Bonding in Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds

- In benzene, all C-C bond lengths are equal ( equal distribution of *pi* electrons around the benzene ring).
- In the polycyclic aromatic compounds, the C-C bond lengths are not the same (e,g. the distance between carbon 1 and 2 =1.36 A° in naphthalene is smaller than the distance between Carbon 2 and 3 = 1.40 A°) → there is no equal distribution of *pi* electrons around naphthalene

# Comparison of bond lengths in Naphthalene



- C-C in ethane: 1.54 A°
- C-C in ethylene: 1.34 A°
- C-C in benzene: 1.40 A°





Two out of three resonance structures show a carbon 1 carbon 2 double bond



The resonance energy per ring is less than that of benzene  $\rightarrow$  suggest

- the polycyclic aromatic compounds are more reactive than benzene.
- reaction at one ring loses less energy because the product still have one or more intact benzenoid rings.



The product still has two benzene rings ; it loses only 20 Kcal/mol

# **Oxidation of Naphthalene**

• Naphthalene can be oxidized to products in which much of the aromaticity is retained.

9



# Reduction of Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds

The polycyclic aromatic compounds (unlike benzene) can be hydrogenated without heat or pressure, or they can be reduced with sodium and ethanol

Na, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH

Na, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH

Na, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH

heat

heat

heat

no reaction

# Hydrogenation of Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds

Hydrogenation of Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds requires heat and pressure just as it does for benzene



# **Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution of Naphthalene**

Naphthalene undergoes electrophilic aromatic substitution predominately at the 1-position (α-position)



## More Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution Reactions



1- acetylnaphthalene

# Position of Substitution of Naphthalene

#### **1-substitution Mechanism**



**Resonance structures for the 1- substitution intermediate** 



### **2-position mechanism**

### Not favored



#### **Resonance structures for the2- substitution intermediate**



# **Sulfonation of Naphthalene**



# 1-naphtalenesulphonic acid vs2- naphtalenesulphonic acid



less repulsion H M SO<sub>3</sub>H

1-naphtalenesulphonic acid

Less stable

2-naphtalenesulphonic acid

More stable

# Kinetic vs Thermodynamic Control



## **Reactions Examples**





The reaction occurs at the more activated ring

# Heterocyclic Aromatic Compounds

- •Heterocyclic compounds have an element other than carbon as a member of the ring
- •Example of aromatic heterocyclic compounds are shown below
  - Numbering always starts at the heteroatom



# Pyridine, a Six-Membered Aromatic Heterocycle

- Pyridine has an  $sp^2$  hybridized nitrogen.
- The *p* orbital on nitrogen is part of the aromatic  $\pi$  system of the ring.
- The nitrogen lone pair is in an *sp*<sup>2</sup> orbital orthogonal to the *p* orbitals of the ring; these electrons are not part of the aromatic system.
- The lone pair on nitrogen is available to react with protons and so pyridine is basic



#### Pyridine contain an electronegative nitrogen $\rightarrow$ polar



Because the nitrogen is more electronegative than carbon, the rest of pyridine ring is electron deficient  $\rightarrow$  carbon atoms on the ring carry a partial positive charge  $\rightarrow$  pyridine has a low reactivity toward electrophilic substitution compared to benzene

# **Reactions of Pyridine**

Pyridine forms a cation with Lewis acids → the ring becomes even more electron deficient.



•Pyridine does not undergo Friedel- Crafts alkylation or Acylation.

•It does not undergo coupling with diazonium salts.

# **Bromination of Pyridine**

 Bromination proceeds only at a high temperature in the vapor phase by free radical path → substitution occurs at the 3-position



# **Pyridine is basic**

- pK<sub>b</sub> of pyridine = 8.75. It is less basic than aliphatic amine (why?).
- It undergo many reactions typical of amines



# **Oxidation of alkyl pyridine**

• The side chains in pyridine can be oxidized to carboxyl groups similar to alkyl benzene.



# Nucleophilic Substitution on the Pyridine Ring

- Pyridine ring is electron deficient → it is susceptible to nucleophilc attack.
- Nucleophilic substitution proceeds readily at the 2-position followed by the 4-position but not at the 3-position.



2-bromopyridine

2-aminopyridine

# Mechanism of substitution at the 2-position





 $NH_2$ 

# Substitution at the 4-position



# Nucleophilic Substitution of pyridine

 Pyridine undergo nucleophilic substitution at the 2-position with extremely strong bases e.g. RLi or NH<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>



## **Mechanism**



# **Quinoline and Isoquinoline**





quinoline

isoquinoline

Both quinoline and isoquinoline contain a pyridine ring fused to a benzene ring

The nitrogen containing ring behaves like the pyridine ring.

The other ring behaves like naphthalene

# **Electrophilic Substitution of Quinoline and Isoquinoline**

• Both compounds undergo electrophlic substitution but in positions 5 and 8.



Reaction at the Nitrogen-Containing Ring of Quinoline and Isoquinoline

- 1. Both quinoline and isoquinoline (like pyridine ) are weak bases (  $pK_b = 9.1$  and 8.6 respectively.
- 2. Both compounds (like pyridine) undergo nucleophilc substitution at the position  $\alpha$  to the nitrogen.

### **Examples**









Br

H<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>



# More Examples





## Five-membered Aromatic Heterocycle



# In furan and thiophene an electron pair on the heteroatom is in a *p* orbital which is part of the aromatic system

# Pyrrole

- \* This p orbital contains two electrons and participates in the aromatic system
- \* The lone pair of pyrrole is part of the aromatic system and not available for protonation; pyrrole is therefore not basic



# **Pyrrole Ring is Polar**

- The nitrogen atom in pyrrole contributes two electrones to the aromatic pi cloud → the nitrogen is electron deficient (not basic).
- The pyrrole ring is electron-rich → partial negative (opposite to pyridine ring)





# Electrophilic Substitution on the Pyrrole Ring

Because the ring carbon are the negative part
the carbon are activated toward electrophilic attack (pyrrole is more reactive than benzene)



## Substitution at the 2-position is Favored over the 3-position

#### **2-nitration**



3 resonance structures for the intermediate of nitration at the 2-position



## Nitration at the 3-position



The are only 2 resonance structures for the intermediate of nitration at the 3position as compared to 3-resonance structures at the 2-position  $\rightarrow$ substitution at 2-position is favored.

# Other five-membered Hetercyclic Aromatic Compounds

• Furan and thiphene behave like pyrrole toward electrophilic substitution,



# **Porphyrins**

- The porphyrin ring system is aromatic planar compound contains four pyrrole rings joined by =CH- groups.
- They are biologically important unit.



The highlighted hydrogen atoms can be replaced by metal ions



