Aspects of tautomerism 9-solvolysis of normal and pseudo phthaloyl chlorides*

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Abstract. Solvolysis of normal and pseudo phthaloyl chlorides in aqueous acetone and in aqueous dioxane has revealed that the former solvolyses about hundred-fold faster than the latter. Contrary to the accepted belief, there is no evidence for equilibrium between the normal and the pseudo forms of phthaloyl chloride, under a variety of conditions.

Keywords. Phthaloyl chloride isomerism ; tautomerism ; solvolysis.

1. Introduction

The isomerism of normal and pseudo phthaloyl chlorides has been designated as tautomerism in text books (Fieser and Fieser 1961), treatises (Rodd 1956) and scientific literature (Chase and Hey 1952, Csányi 1919 and Ott 1943).

Both forms have been isolated and are well characterised. In connection with an extended study of 'abnormal' features of structure and reactivity patterns of γ - and δ -keto-substituted derivatives of carboxylic acids, we had occasion to study these compounds.

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