

RODD'S CHEMISTRY OF CARBON COMPOUNDS

A modern comprehensive treatise

SECOND EDITION

Edited by

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MONOCARBONYL DERIVATIVES
OF ALIPHATIC HYDROCARBONS

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PREFACE TO VOLUME IC

THE reasons for this revised edition of *Rodd's* "Chemistry of Carbon Compounds", the general details with regard to Volume I, which deals with aliphatic (acyclic) compounds and the method adopted for splitting up the primary volume into a series of smaller sub-volumes for the greater convenience of the reader, are set out in the Prefaces to Volumes IA and IB.

The descriptive chapters in Volume IA dealt with aliphatic hydrocarbons and their halogen-substituted derivatives; those in Volume IB described the remaining singly-linked, mono-substituted aliphatic hydrocarbons.

The present book, Volume IC, contrives to describe a single broad class of compounds, namely, aliphatic monocarbonyl compounds, their analogues and derivatives, *i.e.* derivatives of aliphatic hydrocarbons in which one carbon atom carries a doubly-linked oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atom, or two or more such atoms linked singly or by both modes of attachment. Aldehydes and ketones and their derivatives are discussed in Chapter 8, monocarboxylic acids and their analogues in Chapter 9, while Chapter 10 describes the chemistry of carbon monoxide, isocyanides and fulminic acid, compounds containing a single "bivalent" carbon atom, and Chapter 11, that of carbonic acid and its wide range of derivatives. Again, for obvious chemical reasons, halogeno- and nitro-aldehydes and -ketones are also described in Chapter 8 and halogeno-alkanemonocarboxylic acids are included in Chapter 9; nitroalkanemonocarboxylic acids will be described in Chapter 15 (Volume ID) along side aminoalkanecarboxylic acids.

S. COFFEY

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CONTENTS

Chapter 8. Aldehydes and Ketones

by J. G. BUCHANAN, N. A. HUGHES, F. J. MCQUILLIN AND G. A. SWAN

1. Introduction	1
2. Saturated aldehydes	3
a. Aldehydes, alkanals, $C_nH_{2n+1}CHO$	3
(i) Formation and preparation, 4 - (ii) Reactions of the aldehydes, 10 -	
(iii) Aldehydes in synthetic reactions, 14 - (iv) Individual compounds, 18	
b. Halogen substitution products of the saturated aldehydes	24
c. Nitro-aldehydes	26
d. Aldehyde peroxides	26
e. Ethers and esters of the aldehyde hydrates	27
(i) Hemiacetals; 1-alkoxyalkan-1-ols, 27 - (ii) Acetals; 1,1-dialkoxyalka-	
nes, 28 - (iii) 1,1-Dihalogenoalkanes, 1-halogeno-1-hydroxyalkanes and 1-	
alkoxy-1-halogenoalkanes, 30 - (iv) Carboxylic esters of the aldehyde	
hydrates, 31 - (v) Aldehyde bisulphite compounds and aldehyde sulph-	
oxylates, 32	
f. Sulphur derivatives of the saturated aldehydes	33
(i) Alkane-1,1-dithiols, 34 - (ii) Thioaldehydes; alkanethials, polymeric	
thioaldehydes and their sulphones, 34 - (iii) Thioacetals; 1,1-bisalkythio-	
alkanes and alkylidenesulphones; 1,1-bisalkylsulphonylalkanes, 37 - (iv)	
Alkane-1,1-disulphonic acids, 39	
g. Nitrogen-containing derivatives of the aldehydes	40
(i) Compounds derived from aldehydes and ammonia, 40 - (ii) Compounds	
derived from aldehydes and alkylamines, 44 - (iii) Aldoximes, 45 - (iv)	
Azines and substituted hydrazones, 47	
3. Unsaturated aldehydes	48
a. Olefinic aldehydes; alkenals, $C_nH_{2n-1}CHO$	48
b. Acetylenic aldehydes; alkynals, $C_nH_{2n-3}CHO$	51
c. Di- and poly-olefinic aldehydes	52
4. Saturated ketones	52
a. Ketones; alkanones; oxoalkanes, $C_nH_{2n}O$	52
(i) Methods of formation and preparation, 53 - (ii) Properties and re-	
actions, 58 - (iii) Individual ketones, 65	
b. Halogen substitution products of the ketones	70
c. Nitrosoketones	71
d. Nitroketones	71

e. Derivatives of the ketone hydrates	72
(i) Ketone acetals; ketals; dialkoxyalkanes, 72 - (ii) Ketone halides, 72 - (iii) Ketone bisulphite compounds and sulphonylates, 73	
f. Sulphur analogues of the saturated ketones	73
(i) Alkane- <i>gem</i> -dithiols, 73 - (ii) Thioketones, polymeric thioketones and their sulphones, 74 - (iii) Thioketals; bisalkylthioalkanes and derived sulphones, 75	
g. Nitrogen analogues of the ketones	76
(i) Nitro compounds, 76 - (ii) Compounds with ammonia, 76 - (iii) Compounds with alkylamines, 76 - (iv) Hydroxylamine derivatives; ketoximes, 76 - (v) Hydrazine derivatives, 78 - (vi) Ketone semicarbazones, 80 - (vii) Miscellaneous derivatives, 80	
5. Unsaturated ketones and ketens.	81
a. Ketens, $RR'C:CO$	81
(i) Formation and preparation, 81 - (ii) Properties, 82	
b. Olefinic ketones, $C_nH_{2n-1} \cdot CO \cdot C_nH_{2n+1}$	83
(i) Formation and preparation, 83 - (ii) Reactions, 84	
c. Diolefinic ketones	87
(i) Individual compounds, 87 - (ii) The action of ammonia on acetone, mesityl oxide and phorone, 88 - (iii) Action of hydroxylamine and semicarbazide on mesityl oxide and phorone, 89	
d. Acetylenic ketones	90

Chapter 9. Monobasic Carboxylic Acids

by M. F. ANSELL AND R. H. GIGG

1. Introduction	92
2. Saturated monocarboxylic acids	96
a. Formic acid and its derivatives	96
(i) Formic acid, 96 - (ii) Metal formates, 100 - (iii) Halides of formic acid, 101 - (iv) Esters of formic acid (formates), 101 - (v) Formamides, 102 - (vi) Hydrogen cyanide, 104 - (vii) Functional derivatives of formic acid, 109 - (viii) Derivatives of orthoformic acid, 112	
b. Saturated fatty acids	114
(i) Formation and preparation of primary and secondary fatty acids, 115 - (ii) Synthesis of acids with tertiary groups, 123 - (iii) Physical properties of fatty acids, 124 - (iv) Chemical properties and reactions of fatty acids, 126 - (v) Individual fatty acids, 130	
3. Functional derivatives of the fatty acids	139
a. Esters	139
(i) Methods of formation, 139 - (ii) Properties, 144 - (iii) Reactions, 144 - (iv) Individual esters, 146	
b. Acid or acyl halides	150
(i) Formation, 150 - (ii) Properties and reactions of acyl halides, 152 - (iii) Individual acyl halides, 154	
c. Mixed anhydrides with inorganic oxy-acids	155
d. Carboxylic acid anhydrides	156
(i) Formation of simple anhydrides, 156 - (ii) Formation of mixed anhydrides, 158 - (iii) Properties and reactions of acid anhydrides, 158 - (iv) Individual anhydrides, 159	
e. Peroxy-acids (per-acids) and acyl peroxides	160
(i) Formation of peroxy-acids, 160 - (ii) Properties of peroxy-acids, 162 - (iii) Reactions of peroxy-acids, 162 - (iv) Peroxy-esters, 163 - (v) Diacyl peroxides, 164	

f. Amides	165
(i) General methods of preparation, 166 – (ii) Properties and reactions of amides, 171 – (iii) Individual carboxamides, 173	
g. Carbohydrazides	173
(i) Preparation, 173 – (ii) Properties and reactions, 174 – (iii) Individual carbohydrazides, 174	
h. Acyl azides	175
(i) Preparation, 175 – (ii) Properties, 175 – (iii) Reactions, 175	
i. Nitriles or alkyl cyanides	177
(i) General methods of preparation, 177 – (ii) Properties and reactions, 179 – (iii) Individual nitriles, 182	
j. Carboxamide chlorides and imido-yl chlorides	182
k. Alkyl imidates	183
l. Amidines	185
m. Hydroxamic acids and hydroximoyl chlorides	189
(i) Hydroxamic acids, 189 – (ii) Hydroximoyl chlorides, 190	
n. Amidoximes	191
o. Hydroxamic acid-oximes (oxyamidoximes) and nitroso-oximes	191
p. Hydrazidines, amidrazones and 1,2-dihydroformazans	192
4. Thiocarboxylic acids	193
a. Monothiocarboxylic acids and esters	194
(i) Preparation of thiocarboxylic acids, 194 – (ii) Preparation of thiol- or S-alkyl thio-esters, 195 – (iii) Preparation of thion-esters or O-alkyl thio-esters, 195 – (iv) Reactions of monothiocarboxylic acids, 196 – (v) Individual monothiocarboxylic acids, 196	
b. Dithiocarboxylic acids and their derivatives	196
(i) Preparation, 196 – (ii) Reactions, 196 – (iii) Individual dithiocarboxylic acids, 197	
c. Nitrogen derivatives of thiocarboxylic acids	197
(i) Thionamides; thioamides, 197 – (ii) Thiolimides (isothioamides, iminothioethers, thiolimide esters, S-alkyl thioimides), 200	
5. Halogen substitution products of the fatty acids	201
a. Halogenated acetic acids	207
b. Halogenated propionic acids	212
c. Halogen derivatives of higher fatty acids	214
6. Derivatives of ortho-fatty acids	215
a. Ortho-esters	215
(i) Preparation, 215 – (ii) Reactions, 216 – (iii) Individual ortho-esters, 217	
b. Other ortho-compounds	218
7. Unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acids	218
a. Introduction	218
(i) Methods of isolation and analysis of unsaturated acids, 218 – (ii) Biological significance of unsaturated acids, 219 – (iii) General references, 220	
b. Synthesis of unsaturated acids	220
(i) $\alpha\beta$ -Ethylenic acids, 220 – (ii) $\beta\gamma$ - and $\gamma\delta$ -Ethylenic acids, 221 – (iii) Ethylenic acids with isolated double bonds, 222 – (iv) $\alpha\beta$ -Acetylenic acids, 222 – (v) Acetylenic acids with isolated triple bonds, 223 – (vi) Allenic acids, 223	
c. Properties and reactions	224
(i) Hydrogenation and reduction, 224 – (ii) Polymerisation, 225 – (iii) Oxidation, 225 – (iv) Action of alkalis, 226 – (v) Action of sulphuric acid, 226 – (vi) Addition of halogens, 227 – (vii) Addition of mercuric acetate, 227 – (viii) Characteristic reactions of $\alpha\beta$ -unsaturated acids, 227	

d. Unsaturated acids with three carbon atoms	228
e. Unsaturated acids with four carbon atoms	230
f. Unsaturated acids with 5-10 carbon atoms	233
(i) C_5 -acids, 223 - (ii) C_6 -acids, 234 - (iii) C_7 -acids, 237 - (iv) C_8 -acids, 238 - (v) C_9 -acids, 239 - (vi) C_{10} -acids, 239	
g. Unsaturated acids with 11-17 carbon atoms	240
(i) C_{11} -acids, 240 - (ii) C_{12} -acids, 241 - (iii) C_{13} -acids, 242 - (iv) C_{14} -acids, 242 - (v) C_{15} -acids, 243 - (vi) C_{16} -acids, 243	
h. Unsaturated acids with 18 carbon atoms	244
(i) -Enoic and -ynoic acids, 244 - (ii) -Dienoic and -enynoic acids, 246 - (iii) -Trienoic and -enediynoic acids, 247 - (iv) -Tetraenoic acids, 249	
i. Unsaturated with more than 18 carbon atoms	249
(i) C_{20} -acids, 249 - (ii) C_{21} -acids, 251 - (iii) C_{22} -acids, 252 - (iv) C_{24} -acids, 252 - (v) C_{26} -acids, 252 - (vi) C_{27} -acids, 252	

Chapter 10. Carbon Monoxide, Isocyanides and Fulminic Acid

by M. F. ANSELL

1. Introduction	253
2. Carbon monoxide	254
a. Metal carbonyls	255
(i) Formation and preparation, 255 - (ii) Structure, 256	
b. Carbonyl hydrides or hydrocarbonyls	257
c. Synthetic uses of carbon monoxide	258
3. Isocyanides, isonitriles or carbylamines	262
4. Fulminic acid	264

Chapter 11. Carbonic Acid and its Derivatives

by R. HOWE

1. Metacarbonic acid and its esters	268
a. Esters of carbonic acid	271
(i) Primary esters of carbonic acid; alkyl hydrogen carbonates, 271 - (ii) Neutral esters, dialkyl carbonates, alkoxycarbonyloxyalkanes, 272 - (iii) Percarbonates, 274	
b. Anhydrides of primary esters of carbonic acid	274
(i) Esters of dicarbonic acid, 274 - (ii) Mixed anhydrides of primary carbonates and monocarboxylic acids; alkoxycarbonyl esters, 275	
2. Halides of carbonic acid	276
a. Monohalide esters	277
(i) Chloroformic esters, alkyl chloroformates, chlorocarbonates or alkoxy-carbonyl chlorides, 277 - (ii) Alkyl fluoroformates, 278	
b. Carbonyl halides	279
3. Sulphur analogues of carbonic acid and their derivatives	281
a. Carbon oxysulphide and carbon disulphide	282
b. Thiocarbonic acids	284
(i) Monothiocarbonic acids, 284 - (ii) Dithiocarbonic acids, 285 - (iii) Trithiocarbonic acid, 287	
c. Halides of the thiocarbonic acids	289
4. Amides and related derivatives of carbonic acid and the thiocarbonic acids	290

a. Carbamic acid derivatives	290
(i) Alkyl carbamates, urethanes, 291 - (ii) Carbamic acid derivatives of the amino-carboxylic acids, 297 - (iii) <i>N</i> -Halogeno-, nitroso- and nitro-urethanes, 299 - (iv) Carbamoyl chlorides, "urea chlorides", 301 - (v) Carbamoyl phosphates, 302	
b. Urea and its derivatives	303
Constitution of urea, 304 - Formation of urea, 305 - Manufacture of urea, 306 - Reactions of urea, 307 - Urea clathrate compounds, 308 - Determination of urea, 310	
(i) Alkylureas, 311 - (ii) Diureas, 314 - (iii) Halogenoureas, 314 - (iv) Nitroso- and nitro-ureas, 314 - (v) Ureides, 315	
c. Derivatives of iminodicarboxylic acid and nitrilotricarboxylic acid	316
(i) Derivatives of iminodicarboxylic acid, 316 - (ii) Derivatives of nitrilotricarboxylic acid, 320	
d. Derivatives of iminocarbonic acid and isourea	320
(i) Derivatives of iminocarbonic acid, 320 - Derivatives of isourea, 321	
e. Hydrazino, hydrazo, azo, azido and hydroxyamino derivatives of carbonic acid	322
(i) Hydrazinecarboxylic acids and their derivatives, 322 - (ii) Azodicarboxylic acid and its derivatives, 326 - (iii) Azides of derivatives of carbonic acid, 327 - (iv) Hydroxyamino derivatives of carbonic acid, 327	
f. Sulphur analogues of carbamic acid and urea	328
(i) Sulphur analogues of carbonic acid and its derivatives, 328 - (ii) Thiourea, isothiurea and their derivatives, 334 - (iii) Hydrazino, azo and azido derivatives of thiocarbonic acid, 339	
5. Guanidine and its derivatives	341
6. Nitriles and imides of carbonic and thiocarbonic acids	354
a. Cyanic acid and its derivatives	354
(i) Esters of cyanic acid, 356 - (ii) Cyanogen halides, 361	
b. Sulphur compounds of cyanogen	363
(i) Thiocyanic acid, 363 - (ii) Thiocyanogen halides, 366 - (iii) Alkyl thiocyanates, esters of thiocyanic acid, 367 - (iv) Alkyl isothiocyanates, esters of isothiocyanic acid, 369	
c. Cyanamide and its derivatives	373
d. Derivatives of carbodi-imide	376
7. Derivatives of orthocarbonic acid	379
a. Esters, tetra-alkoxymethanes	379
b. Amino-derivatives of orthocarbonic acid	379
c. Sulphur derivatives of orthocarbonic acid	380
(i) Esters, 380 - (ii) Sulphenyl halides and sulphonic acids, 381	
INDEX	383

Chapter 8

Aldehydes and Ketones

J. G. BUCHANAN, N. A. HUGHES, F. J. McQUILLIN AND G. A. SWAN

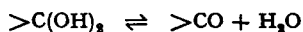
1. Introduction

The close relationship which exists, on the one hand, between the primary alcohols, the aldehydes and the carboxylic acids, and, on the other hand, between the secondary alcohols and the ketones has already been pointed out.

Aldehydes and ketones resemble each other in containing the carbonyl group CO; in aldehydes this is combined with either two hydrogen atoms, in formaldehyde, or with one alkyl group and a hydrogen atom, in the higher members of the series; in ketones it is combined with two alkyl groups:



Aldehydes and ketones can be regarded as the anhydrides of dihydroxy compounds in which both hydroxyl groups are attached to the same carbon atom. Where a reaction leads to a compound containing the group $C(OH)_2$, the corresponding compound containing the CO group is formed by loss of water, except in a few cases where the dihydroxy compound, the aldehyde or ketone hydrate, is stable. In aqueous solution there is an equilibrium between the two forms,

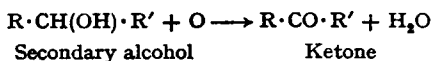
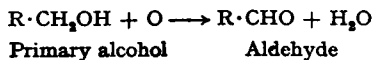


The ethers of the two hydrated forms $R \cdot CH(OR')_2$ and $R \cdot C(OR')_2 \cdot R''$, known as acetals and ketals, respectively, are stable compounds.

A comprehensive account of the chemistry of aldehydes is to be found in "Die Methoden der Organischen Chemie", *J. Houben* and *T. Weyl*, 4th Edn., Ed. *E. Müller*, Thieme, Stuttgart, 1954, Vol. VII, Part 1.

Preparation. The following methods are common to aldehydes and ketones.

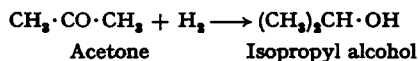
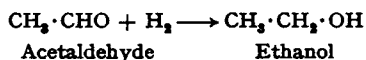
(1) Oxidation of the alcohols, whereby aldehydes are formed from the primary, and ketones from the secondary, alcohols:



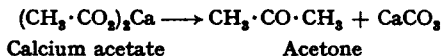
These reactions involve dehydrogenation and *H. Wieland* showed that they can occur in the absence of free oxygen, in the presence of finely divided palladium and a suitable hydrogen-acceptor, such as a quinone (Ber., 1912, 45, 484; 1913, 46, 3327). Biological oxidations may be similar in mechanism (*Wieland, ibid.*, 1914, 47, 2085; *E. Baldwin*, "Dynamic Aspects of Biochemistry", 2nd Edn., Cambridge, 1953, Chap. 6). More recently, the oxidation of alcohols by chromic acid has been shown to involve chromate esters as intermediates (*F. H. Westheimer*, Chem. Reviews, 1949, 45, 419; *W. A. Waters*, Quart. Reviews, 1958, 12, 277).

By further oxidation the aldehydes yield carboxylic acids having the same number of carbon atoms, whilst the ketones are broken down to smaller fragments.

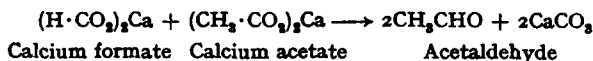
Conversely, aldehydes and ketones are reconverted into primary and secondary alcohols by the addition of hydrogen:



(2) The dry distillation of the calcium, barium or other heavy metal salts of monobasic fatty acids or of a mixture of salts of two different acids, gives in the first case symmetrical and in the second unsymmetrical ketones:



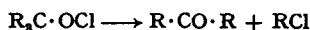
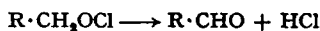
If one acid is formic acid, an aldehyde is produced:



When this reaction is applied to the calcium salts of dibasic acids such as adipic, pimelic and suberic acid, *cyclic* ketones are produced.

(3) Aldehydes and ketones are obtained by direct addition of water to acetylenic hydrocarbons in the presence of a mercury salt as catalyst (see Vol. 1A, p. 457).

(4) Alkyl hypochlorites, obtained from the alcohols by the action of chlorine and alkali, decompose under suitable conditions of light and temperature to yield aldehydes or ketones and hydrogen chloride. The hypochlorites of tertiary alcohols yield ketones and alkyl chlorides (*F. D. Chattaway and O. G. Backeberg, J. chem. Soc., 1923, 123, 2999*):



2. Saturated aldehydes

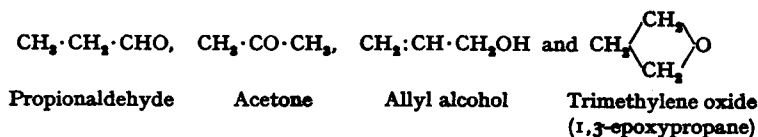
(a) Aldehydes, alkanals, $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1} \cdot \text{CHO}$

The homologous aldehydes show in their properties a gradation similar to that of the alcohols. The lower members are gaseous or volatile liquids, soluble in water, and have a characteristic odour, but the higher are solids, insoluble in water. In general, they are less soluble in water and more volatile than the alcohols. Chemically, they are neutral substances. Their reactivity places them amongst the most important synthetic reagents.

Nomenclature and isomerism. Empirically, the aldehydes are distinguished from the alcohols by possessing two atoms less of hydrogen—hence their name, suggested by Liebig (from *Alcohol dehydrogenatus*).

The common name of an aldehyde is derived from that of the acid of the same number of carbon atoms to which it gives rise on oxidation *e.g.* acetaldehyde from acetic acid. In the Geneva nomenclature, now adopted by the I.U.P.A.C., the names of the aldehydes are formed from the corresponding saturated hydrocarbons by substituting the final "e" by the suffix al; thus acetaldehyde, $\text{CH}_3 \cdot \text{CHO}$ is ethanal. The systematic numbering starts from the CHO group; *e.g.* $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH} \cdot \text{CHO}$ is 2-methylpropanal.

The number of isomeric aldehydes of definite carbon content equals the number of possible primary alcohols having the same carbon content. The aldehydes are isomeric with the ketones, the ethylenic alcohols and the anhydrides of the ethylene glycol series, containing an equal number of carbon atoms; thus the following are isomeric:



(i) *Formation and preparation*

(1) *By the oxidation of primary alcohols*, whereby the $\text{CH}_2 \cdot \text{OH}$ is converted into the CHO group, e.g. by potassium dichromate and dilute sulphuric acid or by atmospheric oxygen in the presence of a catalyst (*R. R. Davies and H. H. Hodgson*, J. chem. Soc., 1943, 282).

When chlorine is used as an oxidising agent, the aldehyde is first formed, but chlorination of the alkyl group follows.

The main by-products in the oxidation of primary alcohols to aldehydes are carboxylic acids which may become esterified during the reaction. Volatile aldehydes should therefore be removed by distillation as formed (*Org. Synth.*, 1932, 12, 64).

Aldehydes may be prepared by a modification of the Oppenauer method of oxidation (*Vol. IB*, p. 14) (*A. Lauchenaue*r and *H. Schinz*, *Helv.*, 1949, 32, 1265).

tert-Butyl chromate is a fairly specific reagent for the oxidation of primary alcohols to aldehydes (*R. V. Oppenauer* and *H. Oberrauch*, *Anales Asoc. quím. argentina*, 1949, 37, 246).

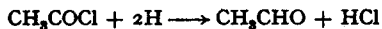
(2) *By direct decomposition (dehydrogenation) of a primary alcohol* by passing alcohol vapours through a red-hot tube or better over finely divided copper at 200–250° (*W. Ipatiew*, *Ber.*, 1903, 36, 1990; *P. Sabatier* and *J. B. Senderens*, *Compt. rend.*, 1903, 136, 738; *L. Bouveault*, *Bull. Soc. chim. Fr.*, 1908, [iv], 4, 119; *H. Adkins et al.*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1933, 55, 2992; *R. E. Dunbar* and *M. R. Arnold*, *J. org. Chem.*, 1945, 10, 501).

Dehydrogenation can also be effected by heating with Raney nickel. In the case of optically active alcohols, such as 2-methylbutan-1-ol, this can occur without loss of optical activity (*E. J. Badin* and *E. Pacsu*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1944, 66, 1963).

(3) *By heating the calcium salts of fatty acids with calcium formate* (*F. Krafft*, *Ber.*, 1880, 13, 1413).

(4) *By the reduction of acid chlorides* by sodium in moist ether (*W. H. Perkin jun.* and *J. J. Sudborough*, *Proc. chem. Soc.*, 1894, 10, 216) or prefer-

ably by hydrogenation in the presence of a poisoned palladium-barium sulphate catalyst (*K. W. Rosenmund*, Ber., 1918, 51, 585; *E. Mosettig* and *R. Mozingo*, Org. Reactions, 1948, 4, 362),

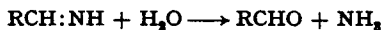
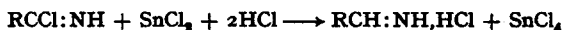
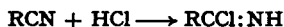


or by lithium tri-*tert*-butoxyaluminumhydride at -70° ; at 0° the aldehydes, are themselves reduced further (*H. C. Brown* and *R. F. McFarlin*, J. Amer. chem. Soc., 1958, 80, 5372).

(5) *By the reduction of carboxylic acids with sodium amalgam* (*Davies* and *Hodgson*, J. Soc. chem. Ind., 1943, 62, 128).

(6) *From alkyl cyanides.* (a) By way of their iminochlorides.

The cyanide is added to a solution of stannous chloride in ether saturated with hydrogen chloride. The product is hydrolysed by warm water to the aldehyde, which is extracted with a solvent or steam-distilled. The yields are very good with the higher cyanides (*H. Stephen*, J. chem. Soc., 1925, 127, 1874; *Mosettig*, Org. Reactions, 1954, 8, 246):



(b) By catalytic hydrogenation in the presence of semicarbazide (*H. Plieninger* and *G. Werst*, Ber., 1955, 88, 1956).

(c) By reduction with lithium triethoxyaluminumhydride (*Brown*, C. J. Shoaf and C. P. Garg, Tetrahedron Letters, 1959, 3, 9), lithium trimethylborohydride (*A. Khuri*, Diss. Abs., 1960, 21, 55) or lithium aluminium hydride (*Mosettig*, loc. cit. p. 252).

(7) *By reduction of a N,N-disubstituted amide* derived from *N*-methylaniline (*F. Weygand et al.*, Angew. Chem., 1953, 65, 525; *S. S. Nigam* and *B. C. L. Weedon*, J. chem. Soc., 1957, 3320), ethyleneimine (*Brown* and *A. Tsukamoto*, J. Amer. chem. Soc., 1961, 83, 2016) or a pyrazole (*W. Ried* and *F. J. Königstein*, Angew. Chem., 1958, 70, 165), with lithium aluminium hydride. Alternatively, the *N,N*-dimethylamide may be reduced with lithium diethoxyaluminumhydride (*Brown* and *A. Tsukamoto*, J. Amer. chem. Soc., 1959, 81, 502). Reduction of substituted amides to aldehydes by alkali metals in liquid ammonia is also possible (*A. J. Birch*, J. Cymerman-Craig and *M. Slaytor*, Chem. and Ind., 1954, 1559; Australian J. Chem., 1955, 8, 512).

(8) *By the hydrolysis of Reissert's compounds* (1-acyl-1,2-dihydroquinaldonitriles); this provides an indirect method for the conversion of carboxylic

acids into aldehydes (*J. M. Grosheintz and H. C. L. Fischer*, J. Amer. chem. Soc., 1941, 63, 2021; *Mosettig*, loc. cit. p. 220).

(9) *By the alkaline decomposition of benzenesulphonacylhydrazides* (*M. Sprecher, M. Feldkimmel and M. Wilchek*, J. org. Chem., 1961, 26, 3664).

(10) *By hydrolysis of some of their derivatives*; this method is of practical importance.

(a) From aldehyde-ammonia and aldehyde-bisulphite compounds (see pp. 40, 31); from oximes and hydrazones (pp. 45, 47).

(b) From alkylidene dihalides, e.g. $\text{CH}_3 \cdot \text{CHCl}_2$ by heating them with water and a base such as lead oxide.

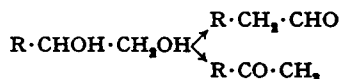
(c) From acetals and alkylidene diacetates, by dilute acids or (in the latter case) alkalis:



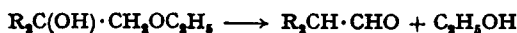
(11) *From $\alpha\beta$ -glycols or their ethers*, containing at least one primary alcoholic group, by loss of water or alcohol, or from the corresponding ethylene oxide, by molecular rearrangement.

(a) Ethylene glycol yields acetaldehyde when heated with dilute sulphuric acid (*K. Krassusky*, J. Soc. phys.-chem. russe, 1902, 34, 537, 556).

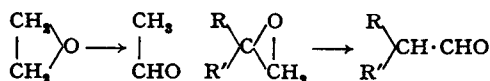
(b) Primary-secondary glycols under the same conditions yield a mixture of aldehyde and ketone:



(c) Primary-tertiary ethylene glycols yield aldehydes when heated with anhydrous formic or oxalic acid (*A. Béhal and M. Sommelet*, Compt. rend., 1904, 138, 89); the ethers $\text{R}_2\text{C}(\text{OH}) \cdot \text{CH}_2\text{OR}$ react particularly easily (*R. A. Barnes and W. M. Budde*, J. Amer. chem. Soc., 1946, 68, 2339):

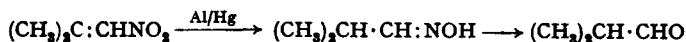


(d) Ethylene oxide and its homologues, especially the primary-tertiary compounds, undergo rearrangement when heated with alumina (*W. Ipatiew and W. Leontowitsch*, Ber., 1903, 36, 2016) or on boiling with dilute acid (*J. von Braun*, *ibid.*, 1923, 56, 2178; *Barnes and Budde*, loc. cit.):



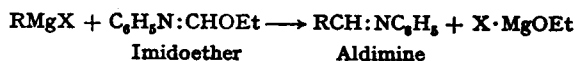
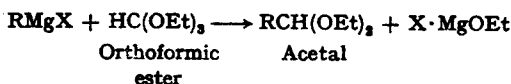
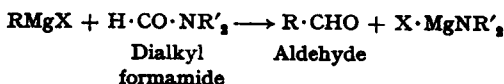
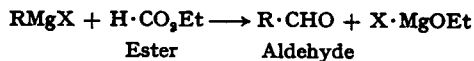
(12) *From sodium salts of primary nitroparaffins*, which yield aldehydes and

nitrous oxide when treated with acids (*J. U. Nef*, *Ann.*, 1894., 280, 263; *K. Johnson* and *E. F. Degering*, *J. org. Chem.*, 1943, 8, 10). Nitro-olefins, $R_2C:CHNO_2$, on reduction yield aldoximes (*L. Bouveault* and *A. Wahl*, *Compt. rend.*, 1902, 134, 1145, 1226):



(13) *By the action of alkalis on the dialkyl-chloroamines, R_2NCl (see Vol. IB, p. 137) and nitroamines $R_2N \cdot NO_2$ (see Vol. IB, p. 148).*

(14) *By the action of alkyl magnesium halides containing one carbon atom less than the required aldehyde on an excess of various formic acid derivatives (*L. Gattermann* and *F. Maffezzoli*, *Ber.*, 1903, 36, 4152, *A. E. Tschitschibabin*, *ibid.*, 1904, 37, 186; *F. Bodroux*, *Compt. rend.*, 1904, 138, 700; *Bouveault*, *Bull. Soc. chim. Fr.*, 1904 [iii], 31, 1322):*

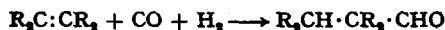


Alternatively, the Grignard reagent may be treated with 6-methyl-3-*p*-tolyl-3,4-dihydroquinazoline methiodide and the product hydrolysed by acid (*H. M. Fales*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1955, 77, 5118), or with *p*-dimethylamino-benzaldehyde and the product treated with diazotised sulphanilic acid to yield an aldehyde (*M. Sisti* and *A. S. Sisti*, *J. org. Chem.*, 1960, 25, 1691). Related to these methods is the synthesis of aldehydes by the action of alkyl-lithiums on substituted formamides (*E. A. Evans*, *J. chem. Soc.*, 1956, 4691):



(15) *By the Oxo Synthesis*, in which an olefin is heated with a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a cobalt salt under

pressure (*H. Adkins and G. Krsek*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1949, 71, 3051; *C. Schuster*, *Fortschr. chem. Forsch.*, 1951, 2, 311):



(16) *Reduction of $\alpha\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes, or better their acetals*, with sodium and alcohol or iron and acetic acid or by catalytic hydrogenation (*A. Skita*, *Ber.*, 1912, 45, 3312; *H. Fournier*, *Bull. Soc. chim. Fr.*, 1910, [iv], 7, 23) gives saturated aldehydes. Since $\alpha\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes result from aldol-type condensations of the lower saturated aldehydes (p. 49) this constitutes a method of passing synthetically up the aldehyde series.

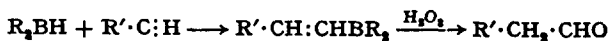
(17) *By the hydrogenolysis of thiol esters* (*M. L. Wolfrom and J. V. Karabinos*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1946, 68, 1455; *Mosettig*, *Org. Reactions*, 1954, 8, 229; *P. Brandt*, *Acta. chem. Scand.*, 1949, 3, 1050).

The thiol-esters, obtained from acid chlorides and ethanethiol in pyridine, are heated with Raney nickel in aqueous ethanol under reflux; or with lithium hydride in toluene or xylene; the method is an alternative to the Rosenmund reduction of acid chlorides; p. 4).

(18) *By the oxidation of alkyl *p*-toluenesulphonates* (prepared from alkyl halides and silver *p*-toluenesulphonate), with dimethyl sulphoxide in sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (*N. Kornblum, W. J. Jones and G. J. Anderson*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1959, 81, 4113). The action of alkyl halides or *p*-toluenesulphonates on excess of trimethylamine-*N*-oxide in chloroform also yields aldehydes (*V. Franze and S. Otto*, *Ber.*, 1961, 94, 1360).

(19) *From alkyl halides and hexamethylenetetramine by the Sommelet reaction* (p. 42; *S. J. Angyal*, *Org. Reactions*, 1954, 8, 197).

(20) *By hydroboration of a terminal acetylene, followed by treatment with hydrogen peroxide* (*H. C. Brown and G. Zweifel*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1959, 81, 1512):

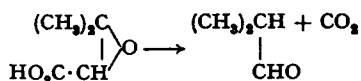


The following *degradation reactions* produce aldehydes.

(21) *From α -hydroxycarboxylic acids*, $RCH(OH)CO_2H$, which yield aldehydes $RCHO$ and formic acid (or $CO + H_2O$) by treatment with sulphuric acid, although the same result can often be better achieved by simply heating (*Davies and Hodgson*, *J. Soc. chem. Ind.*, 1943, 128) or by treatment with lead tetracetate (*W. M. Lauer, W. J. Gensler and E. Miller*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1941, 63, 1153).

Aldehydes are also formed by heating $\alpha\beta$ -epoxy-carboxylic acids, or

glycidic acids (*G. Darzens*, G.P., 174,239/1906; *M. S. Newman* and *B. J. Magerlein*, *Org. Reactions*, 1949, 5, 413):

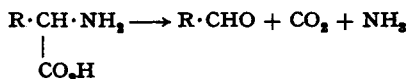


Similarly, α -ketonic acids when heated with dilute sulphuric acid yield aldehydes and carbon dioxide.

(22) *From α -amino-acids*, which give *N*-chloro-compounds when treated with sodium hypochlorite, the alkali salts of which break down with formation of aldehydes when heated in aqueous solution (*K. Langheld*, *Ber.*, 1909, 42, 2360):

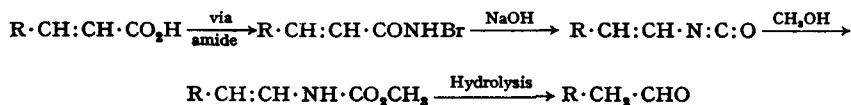


α -Amino-acids are also degraded to aldehyde by heating with certain carbonyl compounds (*R. M. Herbst*, *Adv. in Enzymology*, 1946, 4, 77; *A. Schönberg* and *R. Moubasher*, *Chem. Reviews*, 1952, 50, 261):



The amino group is not necessarily liberated as free ammonia.

(23) *From $\alpha\beta$ -unsaturated acids* by the following series of reactions (*I. J. Rinkes*, *Rec. Trav. chim.*, 1926, 45, 819):



(24) *By direct oxidation of a compound containing a double bond* to give a mixture of aldehydes, e.g. with hydrogen peroxide in ether in the presence of osmium tetroxide (*R. Criegee*, *Ann.*, 1936, 522, 75).

Ozonides, formed by the action of ozone on olefins, may be decomposed to aldehydes by water (*C. Harries*, *ibid.*, 1905, 343, 311), zinc dust and acetic acid (*A. L. Henne* and *P. Hill*, *J. Amer. chem. Soc.*, 1943, 65, 752) or by hydrogenolysis (*N. C. Cook* and *F. C. Whitmore*, *ibid.*, 1941, 63, 3540; *Henne* and *W. L. Perilstein*, *ibid.*, 1943, 65, 2183; *P. S. Bailey*, *Chem. Reviews*, 1958, 58, 925).