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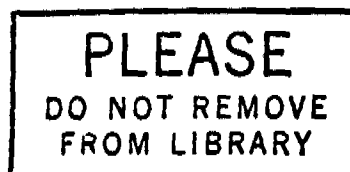
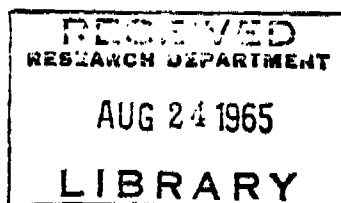
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R. N. WHEELER, JR.

A PEROXIDE OF VINYL CHLORIDE

By M. Lederer

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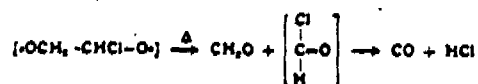
By Dr. M. Lederer

Synthetics Laboratory of the Farbwerke Hoechst A.G.

Recently, a report was presented on conversion products of vinyl chloride and oxygen [1]. We would like to present some of our own results:

When subjected to UV irradiation between -15 and -20°C , vinyl chloride forms a peroxide $[\cdot\text{OCH}_2\text{-CHCl-O}\cdot]_n$. The compound, prepared in quantities of 60-240 mg, is a colorless, syrupy substance, the halogen atoms are readily split off by hydrolysis. On the basis of active oxygen, we obtained the substance in a purity of 80%. Cryoscopic molecular weight determinations in dioxane indicate $n = 2$. The compound can be hydrogenated with an excess of LiAlH_4 in tetrahydrofuran at 65°C into ethylene glycol (75% of theory) and HCl (85% of theory).

Thermal decomposition in an anhydrous CO_2 -stream at 75°C , in part, takes place as follows:



(39% d. Th.) (44% d. Th.) (79% d. Th.)

(39% of theory) (44% of theory) (79% of theory)

In the N_2 -stream, 1-2% CO_2 are present.

At 50°C and 60°C , the thermal decomposition in dioxane still takes place at a measurable rate. In the hydrolysis with wet ether below 35°C , we found HCl (84% of theory), glycolaldehyde (20% of theory) and glycolic acid (26% of theory). The peroxide initiates the block polymerization of vinyl chloride above 35°C , but only a small quantity of polymer forms.

In a similar manner as vinyl chloride, 2-chlorpropylene, its methyl homolog, undergoes a reaction with O_2 . However, we found

only 23% of the anticipated peroxide in the reaction product.
In the reduction with LiAlH_4 , propylene glycol was formed
(18% of theory).

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¹⁾ G. A. Rasuwajew and K. S. Minsker: J. allgem. Chem.
(Russ.) 28, 983 (1958).