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3-Amino-1,2,4(4*H*)-oxadiazol-5-one (AOD) and its Nitrogen-Rich Salts: A Class of Insensitive Energetic Materials

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The targeted energetic material 3-amino-1,2,4(4*H*)-oxadiazol-5-one (AOD) was synthesized from sodium dicyanamide using hydroxylamine hydrochloride in one-step procedure. AOD was prepared by a novel procedure in good yield and characterized using spectroscopic (IR, Raman, NMR) techniques. The high nitrogen-containing hydroxylamine and hydrazine salts of AOD (**3**) were prepared from their respective nitrogen bases in good yields. The solid state structures of the synthesized molecules were confirmed by single X-ray crystallography. 3-amino-1,2,4(4*H*)-oxadiazol-5-one (AOD, **3**), 3-amino-1,2,4(4*H*)-oxadiazol-5-one-Hydroxylamine (AOD-HyAm, **5**) and 3-amino-1,2,4(4*H*)-oxadiazol-5-one-Hydrazine (AOD-Hy, **6**) showed densities of 1.76, 1.73 and 1.64 g/cc respectively. The thermal stabilities of the molecules were assessed by thermogravimetric analysis. Non-isothermal kinetics was performed on the molecules to derive the activation energy. Constant volume combustion energy was determined using oxygen bomb calorimeter and the heat of formation was calculated from the experimental values. Sensitivities of the molecules were measured by using impact and friction tests.

# Introduction

For years tetrazoles and their derivatives have been in use as the building blocks for the synthesis of energetic materials.<sup>1</sup> Although tetrazole derivatives show good densities as compared to their analogues with lesser nitrogen atoms, their sensitivities are often not suitable for good practical use.<sup>2</sup> The incorporation of oxygen containing rings such as oxazoles, may be a good option. The oxadiazole moiety reveals promising energetic properties as shown for furazanes (Figure 1).<sup>3</sup>



Figure 1. a) 1,3,4 oxadiazole; b) 1,2,4 oxadiazole; c) 1,2,5-oxadiazole (furazane); d) 1,2,3-oxadiazole.

Oxadiazole **'a'** and **'b'** (Figure 1) are reported frequently in literature, as their rings are fused from a hydroxyamino amide or from a hydrazino amide and an organic acid. They are often used in pharmaceutical applications.<sup>4</sup> Whereas **'d'** is rarely reported due to the rather complex synthetic preparation, as well as the unstable nature of the molecule and they can exist only with substituents.<sup>5</sup>

Although the chemistry of tetrazole and its derivatives is well explored with respect to their properties as explosives<sup>6a</sup>, the chemistry of 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-ones and its salts are largely unknown to the best of our knowledge.

During our investigations, we found that the reported methods to prepare AOD (3) involved multi-step synthetic procedures.<sup>6b-c</sup> The use of toxic methyl mercaptane and expensive methylation agents like dimethyl sulfate or iodomethane make this synthetic strategy cumbersome.

Herein, we report an easy and effective novel one-step synthesis of AOD (**3**) from sodium dicyanamide with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in basic medium. The resultant reaction mixture was acidified (pH=1) using concentrated hydrochloric acid (37%) at 0 °C to obtain AOD (**3**) in good yield. The hydroxylamine (AOD-HyAm, **5**) and hydrazine (AOD-Hy, **6**) salts of AOD were prepared from AOD (**3**) with their respective bases in good yield. The compounds were characterized by spectroscopic (IR, Raman, NMR) methods and the solid state structures of the synthesized compounds were elucidated by X-ray diffraction technique. The thermal stabilities of the molecules were determined by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). In addition, the detailed thermo-chemical analyses of the synthesized compounds were studied.

## **Results and Discussion**

#### Synthesis and characterization

AOD (3) was synthesized in a one-step procedure (Scheme 1). A solution of sodium dicyanamide was added dropwise to the

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mixture of hydroxylamine hydrochloride and sodium hydroxide in aqueous medium at 40 °C. Acidification of the mixture with concentrated hydrochloric acid resulted crude AOD (**3**). It was recrystallized from hot methanol to produce white solid in 60% yield. X-ray diffraction analysis confirmed the structure of compound **3** as depicted in Figure 2.



Scheme 1. Novel synthetic route for 3-amino-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3).

Following the synthesis of AOD (**3**), novel energetic nitrogenrich salts with hydroxylamine and hydrazine were prepared and characterized (Scheme 2). The highly acidic secondary amine (–NH) proton was deprotonated by the nitrogen bases in simple acid-base reaction to yield the nitrogen-rich salts (**5** and **6**) in quantitative yields. The structures of **5** and **6** were confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 2).



Scheme 2. Synthetic route towards AOD salts (5 and 6).

The formation of AOD (**3**) occurs via nucleophilic addition of hydroxylamine to one of the cyano group in sodium dicyanamide (**1**) resulting the mono oxime derivative (**2a**), confirmed by the presence of nitrile group (2250 cm<sup>-1</sup>) in the structure by FT-IR. Finally, the cyclization product (**3**) was observed after acidification (pH=1) with concentrated hydrochloric acid (37%) with the liberation of ammonia and confirmed by the disappearance of the nitrile group in the structure by FT-IR.

Only mono oxime derivative (2a) was obtained from compound 1 under 1 or 2 equiv. of hydroxylamine (2) as shown in Scheme 3. Contrary to that, mono<sup>8a-c</sup> and di oxime<sup>8d</sup> (4a and 4c) resulted when the reaction was performed with malononitrile under the same conditions (Scheme 4). The cyclization might be prompted by the electron rich nature of the central nitrogen atom on sodium dicyanamide (1) analogous to the methylene group on malononitrile (4). Further cyclization of compound 4a to 4b was reported in the literature.<sup>8a</sup> The molecular structure of **4c** was confirmed by single X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 2).







Scheme 4. Plausible mechanism with malononitrile (4).

The structure of AOD (3) was characterized by spectroscopic (IR, Raman, NMR) methods. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were measured in DMSO- $d_6$  solvent. The resonance peaks at  $\delta$  = 11.86, 6.19 ppm in <sup>1</sup>H spectrum corresponds to the amino groups in oxadiazole ring. The de-shielding of the resonance peak may be due to the electronic effects of the oxadiazole ring and keto group. The two chemically different carbon atoms in the molecule showed resonance at  $\delta$  = 159.1, 157.5 ppm, respectively. The carbon atom of the keto group is the most de-shielded and resonated at  $\delta$  = 159.1 downfield from TMS. The carbon atom of the oxadiazole ring was less deshielded and resonated at  $\delta$  = 157.5 ppm. FT-IR spectrum revealed absorption peaks at 2250 cm<sup>-1</sup> of the nitrile stretching mode (**2a**), 3356, 3204 cm<sup>-1</sup> of N-H stretching, 1686, 1533 cm<sup>-1</sup> of N-H bending, and 906, 739 cm<sup>-1</sup> of N-H wag modes of the primary and secondary amino groups (3). Raman spectrum showed vibrational modes characteristic of oxadiazole ring. AOD showed stretching bands at 1539 ( $C_{tet}$ -N- $C_{trz}$ ), 1453 (N=N), 1264 (N-N), 1070 (C-N-N<sub>ring str</sub>) and 769 (N-N wagging) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

#### **Molecular Structure**

The structure of AOD (**3**) was ascertained from single crystal Xray diffraction data. Suitable crystals for analysis were grown by slow evaporation from hot methanol at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. AOD (**3**) crystallized in monoclinic space group  $C_1c_1$  with a cell volume of 381.34(11) Å<sup>3</sup>. From the crystal structure of **3**, it was clear that the O–C bond formation has happened at the keto group carbon. AOD (**3**) showed a nearly planar arrangement of the whole molecule. The hydrogen atoms of the amine moiety are merely tilted from the plane which is spanned by the five-membered ring. Published on 27 December 2017. Downloaded by RMIT University Library on 27/12/2017 14:05:41.

Table 1. Crystal data and refinement for <b>3</b> , <b>4c</b> , <b>5</b> and <b>6</b> .											
Crystal data	3	4c	5	6							
CCDC	1407655	1561177	1560543	1561922							
Chemical Formula,	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ,	C₃H <sub>8</sub> N₄O	$C_2H_6N_4O_3$ ,	$C_2H_7N_5O_2$							
, Mr	101.07	2, 132.13	134.11	133.13							
т (к)	103	100	100	100							
Radiation type, λ	Μο Κα.	Μο Κα.	Μο Κα.	Μο Κα							
(Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073							
Crystal system.	Monoclinic	Monocli	Monoclini	Orthorho							
Space group	C1C1	nic. Cac	$c_{P2_1/c}$	mbic,							
	-1-1		-, -1, -	Pna2							
a h c (Å)	9 3860(16)	8 5972(3	7 0644(2)	13 3609(4							
u, b, c (r (	3 5384(6)	)	7.0044(2)	13.3003(4							
	12 154(2)	// 9 //798/3	, 6 1129(2)	// 10 8742(4							
	12.134(2)	)	0.1125(2)	10.0742(4							
		/, 1/1 2271/	, 12 3876(	/, 3 7046(1)							
		14.2271( 5)	5)	5.7040(1)							
$\alpha \beta \mu ()$	90	2) 90	90	00 00 00							
α, υ, γ ( )	100 120/6)	06 2612/	105 6560	50, 50, 50							
	109.139(0),	12) 00	(12)								
	90	13), 90	(12),								
ν (Å <sup>3</sup> )	201 24/11)	1152 50/	90 E1E 10(2)	E20 24/2)							
V(A)	361.34(11)	7)	515.10(5)	556.24(5)							
7	4	/)	4	4							
۲ ۲	4	8	4	4							
ρ, g cc	1.760	1.523	1.729	1.643							
μ, mm	0.156	0.127	0.157	0.141							
WR <sub>2</sub> [all]	0.0875	0.1320	0.0910	0.0730							
F(000)	208	560	280	280							
Crystal size,	0.100x0.120x	0.058x	0.068x0.1	0.040x0.0							
mm	0.400	0.257x0.	57	80							
<b>-</b> 1		308	x0.208	x0.100							
Ineta	3.55 to 31.43	2.88 to	3.75 to	2.42 to							
range for data		30.98	31.03	27.09							
collection,"											
Reflections	2638	13893	14096	11594							
collected											
Independent	1157 [R(int)	1830	1625	1180							
reflections	= 0.0454]	[R(int)	[R(int)	[R(int)							
		=	= 0.0460]	= 0.0644]							
		0.0744]									
Absorption	Multi-Scan	Numeric	Numerica	Multi-							
correction		al	I Mu	Scan							
		Mu	Calculate								
		Calculat	d								
		ed									
Max. and min.	0.9850 and	0.731	0.9890	0.9940							
transmission	0.9400		and	and							
			0.9680	0.9860							
Refinement	Full-matrix	Full-	Full-	Full-							
method	least-squares	matrix	matrix	matrix							
	on F <sup>2</sup>	least-	least-	least-							
		squares	squares	squares							
		on F <sup>2</sup>	on F <sup>2</sup>	on F <sup>2</sup>							
Refinement	SHELXL-	SHELXL-	SHELXL-	SHELXL-							
Programme	2014/6	2014/7	2014/7	2016/6							
	(Sheldrick,	(Sheldric	(Sheldrick	(Sheldrick,							
	2014)	k, 2014)	, 2014)	2016)							
Data/restraints/par	1157 / 3 / 70	1830/0	1625 / 2 /	1180 / 5 /							
ameters		/ 84	90	95							
Goodness-	1.113	1.085	1.077	1.079							
of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>											

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Single crystals were grown by the slow evaporation of solution of AOD-HyAm (5) in EtOH/MeOH (1:1) solvent at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. AOD-HyAm (5) crystallized in monoclinic space group  $P2_1/c$  with cell volume of 515.10(3) Å<sup>3</sup>.

AOD-Hy (6) was unambiguously elucidated by single-crystal Xray diffraction analysis (Figure 2). Suitable crystals for analysis were grown by slow evaporation from EtOH/MeOH (1:1) solvent at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. AOD-Hy (6) crystallized in orthorhombic space group  $Pna2_1$  with cell volume of 538.24(3) Å<sup>3</sup>.

The crystallographic data of these compounds (3, 4c, 5 and 6) are detailed in Table 1. The complete list of hydrogen-bond geometry, bond lengths, bond angles, atom coordinates and thermal displacement parameters can be obtained from ESI.



Figure 2. Molecular structures of compounds 3, 4c, 5 and 6; thermal ellipsoids are set at 50% probability and hydrogen atoms are unknot labeled for clarity.

## **Thermo-Chemical Properties**

Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) was used to assess the thermal stability and decomposition behavior of the molecule. AOD and its salts (less than 2 mg) in aluminium crucibles were subjected to a temperature scanning programme, which involved heating the sample and reference from 50-500 °C under dynamic nitrogen purging environment with a flow rate of 50 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The experiments were done at 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup> heating rate with empty aluminium crucible as the reference. AOD (3), AOD-HyAm (5) and AOD-Hy (6) showed exothermic decomposition with a onset temperature of 207, 206, 114 °C respectively (Figure 3).

The peak temperature from the DTA thermograms was utilized for non-isothermal kinetic analysis. Peak values (T<sub>p</sub>), from thermograms run at four different heating rates were used to generate the kinetic parameters with Kissinger and Ozawa methods. As observed for many energetic materials, the decomposition temperature of both the compounds increased as the heating rate increased. In order to have good correlation, the  $E_a$  value obtained by Ozawa method was

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refined as per the ASTM E-698 standard.<sup>7a</sup> A correlation factor D, was introduced to refine the Ozawa relation as laid out by Ozawa-Flynn-Wall. The factor was based on the value of  $E_a/RT$ . The  $E_a$  value from refined Ozawa-Flynn-Wall relation correlated well with that of the Kissinger relation.<sup>7b-c</sup> The trend in activation energy gave indication of the thermal stability of molecules. AOD-HyAm (5) with the highest thermal stability showed the highest activation energies among the three molecules. Table 2 assimilates the  $E_a$  and LnA values derived from these two relations for the molecules. A representative depiction of Kissinger and Ozawa plots of **3**, **5** and **6** can be obtained from ESI.

#### **Constant Volume Calorimetry**

Constant volume combustion energy of AOD (**3**), AOD-HyAm (**5**) and AOD-Hy (**6**) were experimentally calculated using a Parr bomb calorimeter. The total energy on combustion,  $\Delta_c$ U inside an oxygen bomb was recorded to be -2073.9 (AOD), -1682.5 (AOD-HyAm), and -2484.5 (AOD-Hy) cal g<sup>-1</sup>. The enthalpy of combustion was calculated from the relation,  $\Delta_c$ H =  $\Delta_c$ U +  $\Delta$ nRT, where  $\Delta$ nRT is the correction factor for gas volume increase. The standard energies of formation ( $\Delta_f$ H<sup>o</sup>) were back calculated from  $\Delta_c$ H, on the basis of the combustion relation equations (1, 2 & 3). The calculated heats of formation values were -343.5 (AOD), -705.3 (AOD-HyAm) and -407.9 (AOD-Hy) kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

$$C_2 H_3 N_2 O_2(s) + 1.75 O_2(g) \to 2CO_2(g) + 1.5 H_2 O(l) + N_2(g)$$
(1)

 $C_2 H_6 N_4 O_3(s) + 2O_2(g) \to 2CO_2(g) + 3H_2 O(l) + 2N_2(g)$ (2)

 $C_2H_7N_5O_2(s) + 2.75O_2(g) \rightarrow 2CO_2(g) + 3.5H_2O(l) + 2.5N_2(g)$  (3)

Sensitivities of **3**, **5** and **6** towards impact (IS) and friction (FS) were measured. Measurements were made using a standard BAM Fall hammer with 2 kg drop weight and BAM friction tester. The synthesized nitrogen-rich derivatives **3** (IS: >20 J;

FS: >360 N), **5** (IS: >20 J; FS: >360 N) and **6** (IS: >20 J; FS: 192 N) were found to be insensitive towards impact and friction, suggesting the potential use of these molecules as insensitive energetic materials in gas generators/mono propellant additives.



Figure 3. TGA plots of **3**, **5** and **6** (heating rate of 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>).

Table 2. Non-isothermal kinetic analysis data using Kissinger and Ozawa methods for 3, 5 and 6.

$\beta (^{\circ}C \min^{-1})^{a}$	Onset Temperature (°C) <sup>b</sup>		Peak	Peak Temperature, T <sub>p</sub> (°C) <sup>c</sup>		Frequency factor (LnA, min <sup>-1</sup> )		E <sub>a</sub> Kissinger (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>			E₂ Ozawa (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>				
	3	5	6	3	5	6	3	5	6	3	5	6	3	5	6
2	194	195	111	201.3	198.9	117.1	22.5	29.3	17.1	96.1	122.4	61.3	99.1	124.0	64.7
4	204	205	113	214.4	211.8	129.4									l
6	210	207	116	220.1	215.6	135.3									
8	213	211	118	228.3	222.1	143.2									

a) DTA Heating rate; b) Onset temperature of decomposition from DTA thermograms; c) Peak temperature of decomposition from DTA thermograms; d) Activation energy calculated from Kissinger equation; e) Activation energy calculated from Ozawa method.

## Conclusions

The 3-amino-1,2,4-oxadiazole (**3**) was prepared by novel onestep procedure in good yield. The hydroxylamine and hydrazine salts of AOD (**5** and **6**) were synthesized from AOD (3) in good yields. These compounds were characterized by spectroscopic (IR, Raman, NMR) methods and the solid-state structures of most of these compounds were determined by using single crystal X-ray diffraction techniques. The synthesized compounds AOD (3), AOD-HyAm (5) and AOD-Hy (6) exhibited densities of 1.76, 1.73, 1.64 g/cc respectively. The

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thermal behavior and non-isothermal kinetics performed on the molecules revealed good thermal stability and activation energies for decomposition. The molar enthalpies of formation of the synthesized molecules were determined from bomb calorimetric measurements. The synthesized compounds were insensitive towards impact and friction. As AOD (**3**) is energetic similarity to 5-amino-(1*H*)- tetrazole (AT) and insensitive, further derivatization of AOD (**3**) is ongoing in our laboratory and will be reported in the future.

# **Caution!**

Although we have not experienced any safety issues in handling or during synthesis; in any case, AOD and its salts should be handled with care by using proper safety precautions. Safety shields, safety glasses, face shields, leather gloves, and protective clothing, such as leather suits, and ear plugs must be worn. Ignoring safety precautions can lead to serious injury.

## **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

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The 3-amino-1,2,4(4*H*)-oxadiazole-5-one and its nitrogen-rich salts are synthesized in good yield. The compounds show promise as insensitive energetic ingredients.

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