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2-METHYLBENZOTHAZOLE SYNTHESIS FROM 2-MERCAPTOANILINE AND ACETIC ACID

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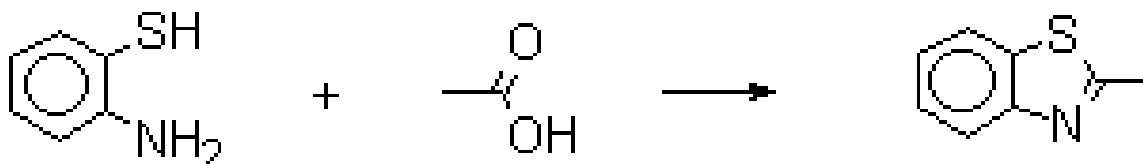
2-Methylbenzothiazole is widely used as the half-product for the thiocyanine dyes photosensitisers synthesis. It usually is synthesized by action of an acetic anhydride in excess on 2-mercaptoaniline.

High-temperature reaction of 2-mercaptoaniline derivatives with the organic acids at temperatures above 200°C was extensively studied, but the reaction with acetic acid was not described [1-5].

The method of benzothiazole and its lower 2-alkylsubstituted derivatives synthesis from zinc 2-aminomercaptide and lower aliphatic acids was earlier described, but even in this paper in the examples of 2-methylbenzothiazole synthesis acetic anhydride alone or its mixture with benzene was used [6].

We have elaborated a new efficient method of 2-methylbenzothiazole synthesis from 2-mercaptoaniline and acetic acid shown at the scheme 1.

Scheme 1.



2-Mercaptoaniline and acetic acid (120% excess) were refluxed 3h. Then the fraction boiling at 103-108°C was slowly distilled with a short Vigreux column. After distillation of all formed water, the column was removed and the excess of acetic acid with b. p. 108-144°C was distilled. Fractioning of the remained substance gave the first fraction with b. p. 144-240°C (10%) and the crude product, b.p. 240-250°C (78%), n_D^{15} 1.1619. Further distillation at reduced pressure gave the pure 2-methylbenzothiazole, b.p. 93-97°C/6 mm, n_D^{20} 1.1617.

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