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# Kinetic Study on Aminolysis of 4-Pyridyl Benzoate and 4-Pyridyl Thionobenzoate in Acetonitrile: Factors Influencing Reactivity and Reaction Mechanism

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## Abstract

A kinetic study on nucleophilic substitution reactions of 4-pyridyl benzoate (**2a**) and O-4-pyridyl thionobenzoate (**2b**) with a series of cyclic secondary amines in acetonitrile at 25.0 °C is reported. Plots of pseudo-first-order rate constant ( $k_{\text{obsd}}$ ) vs. [amine] are linear and pass through the origin for the reactions of **2a** but curve upward for those of **2b**. The upward curvature observed for the reactions of **2b** is typical for reactions that proceed through a stepwise mechanism with a zwitterionic intermediate  $T^{\ddagger}_{\text{f}, \text{A}, \text{A}^{\pm}}$ , which decomposes to the products via uncatalyzed and catalyzed routes competitively. The reaction of **2a** has been suggested to proceed through a stepwise mechanism with  $T^{\ddagger}_{\text{f}, \text{A}, \text{A}^{\pm}}$ , in which expulsion of the leaving group occurs in the rate-determining step on the basis of a linear Brønsted-type plot with  $\rho_{\text{nuc}} = 0.77$ . The catalyzed reaction of **2b** from  $T^{\ddagger}_{\text{f}, \text{A}, \text{A}^{\pm}}$  has been proposed to proceed through a concerted mechanism with a six-membered cyclic transition state rather than via a stepwise pathway with an anionic intermediate  $T^{\ddagger}_{\text{f}, \text{A}, \text{A}^{\pm}}$ . Factors influencing reactivity and reaction mechanism are discussed in detail.

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