C. Hydrazinolysis

1. Nitrosoguanidine

Thiele (149), in 1893, discovered that equimolecular proportions of nitrosoguanidine (125) and hydrazine hydrate react readily, with evolution of nitrogen, to form aminoguanidine:

The intermediate, a tetrazene,

was considered to form, and immediately lose nitrogen. However, when the reaction was conducted with the ratio of 2 moles of nitrosoguanidine to 1 mole of hydrazine hydrate, a much slower reaction took place, and the product was hydrazodicarbamidine:

$$H_2NC(=NH)NHNHC(=NH)NH_2$$

The first substance formed is aminoguanidine, as indicated above. This in turn reacts with additional nitrosoguanidine to form the tetrazene

$$H_2NC(=NH)NHN=NNHC(=NH)NH_2$$

in which loss of nitrogen results in the formation of hydrazodicarbamidine. Thiele considered that this was proof that aminoguanidine did not have the "symmetrical" form:

$$C = NH_2$$

$$NH_2$$

$$NH_2$$

Thiele (149) suggested as an alternative mechanism for the formation of hydrazodicarbamidine that the nitrosoguanidine first "dearranged" (25, 26) to water, nitrogen, and cyanamide; that cyanamide combined with the hydrazine to form aminoguanidine; and that this compound in turn reacted with a second mole of cyanamide to form hydrazodicarbamidine. About the same time, Pellizzari (101) found that the reaction of cyanamide and hydrazine hydrochloride led to the formation of aminoguanidine.