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A NEW SYNTHESIS OF β -FURYL THIOETHERS

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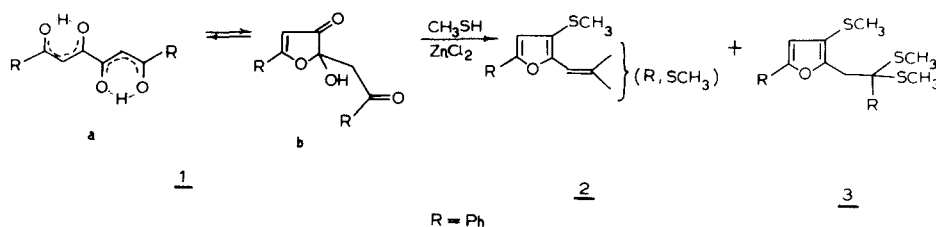
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A NEW SYNTHESIS OF β -FURYL THIOETHERS

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An efficient route to β -furyl thioethers 2 and 3 was developed by reaction of oxalyldiacetophenone 1 with methylmercaptan in presence of ZnCl_2 :



Structures of products 2 and 3 were consistent with spectral data, and on desulphurization with Raney nickel they gave the same 2-phenyl-5-(β -phenylethyl)-furan (4).

The mechanism of the reaction of tetraketones 1 with mercaptan presumably involves the reductive elimination of the α -hydroxy group in the cyclic form 1b of the ring-chain tautomerism in the 1,3,4,6-tetraketone series.