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### HIGH YIELD SYNTHESIS OF $\alpha$ -PHOSPHONYL ORGANOSULFUR COMPOUNDS

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## Communication

# HIGH YIELD SYNTHESIS OF $\alpha$ -PHOSPHONYL ORGANOSULFUR COMPOUNDS

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A new method for the preparation of a  $\alpha$ -phosphonyl organosulfur compounds has been developed. The use of such compounds for preparation of vinylthioethers through Wadsworth-Emmons reaction are demonstrated.

**Key words:** Synthesis;  $\alpha$ -phosphonyl organosulfur compounds.

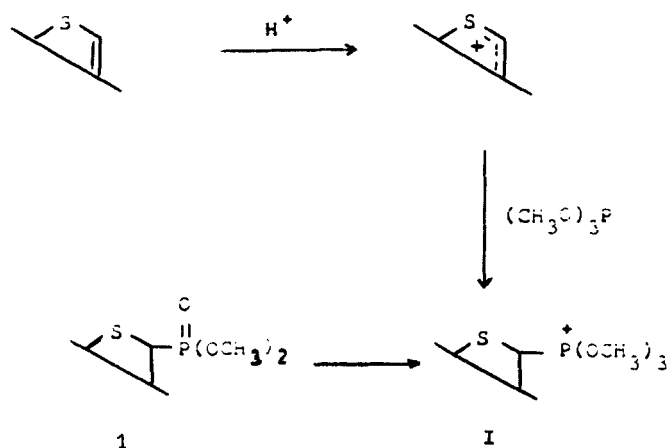
The use of Wittig-Horner reagents<sup>1</sup> has important organic applications. However, only those phosphonates having a resonance stabilizing group will give good yields of olefins with carbonyl compounds.<sup>2</sup> The ability of bivalent sulfur to stabilize an adjacent carbanion lends further versatility to the phosphonate modification of the Wittig synthesis.<sup>3</sup>

The potential importance of the extension of the carbon skeletons of carbonyl compounds by two or more carbons using reagents of general structure 1 suggests the need for a new way to prepare a variety of these types of compounds.

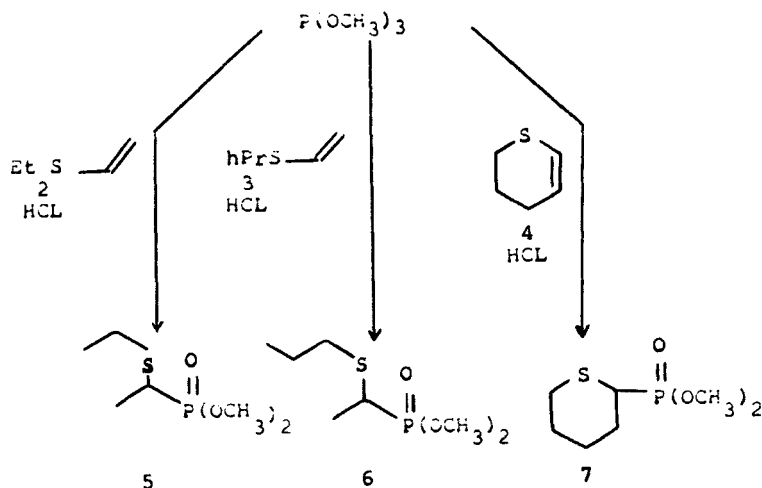
Although the common method for preparation of  $\alpha$ -phosphonyl organosulfur compounds is via the corresponding  $\alpha$ -halothioethers, the yields in many cases are low due to elimination as the side reaction.<sup>4</sup> Based upon the fact that alcohols can be protected as acetals by their reaction with enol ethers under acidic conditions,<sup>5</sup> I reasoned that trivalent phosphorous compounds should act as nucleophiles under similar conditions to form carbon-phosphorous bonds. The reaction presumably would proceed to an Arbuzov-like intermediate I which would then react further to form the  $\alpha$ -phosphonyl organosulfur 1 as shown in Scheme 1.

The reaction of vinyl ethers with triphenyl phosphine and trimethyl phosphite in the presence of Hydrogen Chloride produces the corresponding  $\alpha$ -alkoxy phosphonium salts and  $\alpha$ -alkoxy phosphonates respectively.<sup>5,7</sup> I wish to report preliminary results on the reaction of equimolar amounts of trimethyl phosphite with ethyl vinyl thio ether 2, propyl vinyl thio ether 3, and 2–3 dihydro thio pyran 4 in anhydrous ether in presence of dry Hydrogen-Chloride at 0 to give over 90% yield of dimethyl ( $\alpha$ -ethyl thio ethyl) phosphonate 5; dimethyl ( $\alpha$ -ethyl thio propyl) phosphonate 6 and dimethyl (2-tetrahydropyranyl) phosphonate 7, respectively as shown in Scheme 2.

With high yield of phosphonates 5–7 in hand, studies of Wadsworth-Emmons<sup>8</sup> reaction using these substrates were undertaken. Phosphonate 5 and 6 was used



SCHEME 1

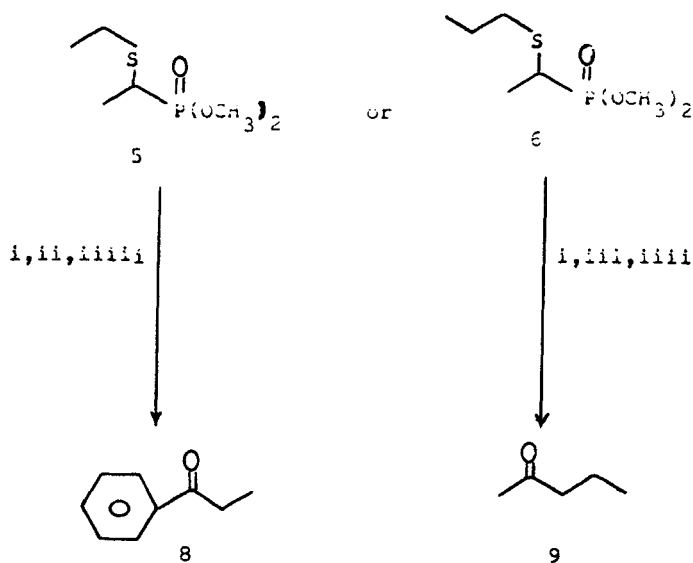


SCHEME 2

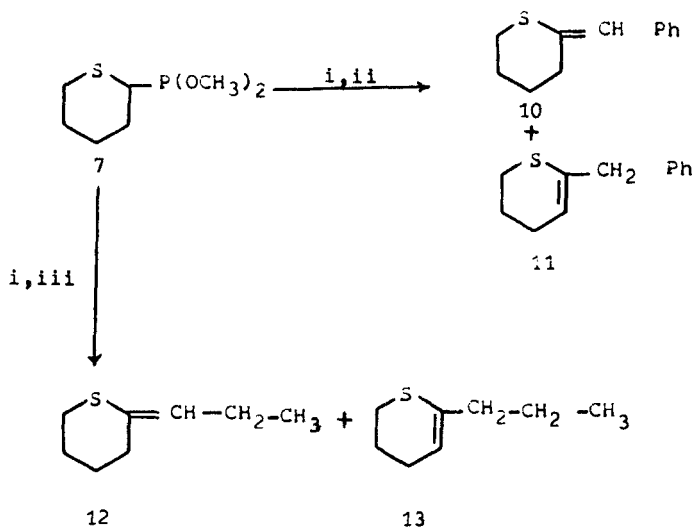
in a two-carbon addition to benzaldehyde and propionaldehyde to give 1-phenyl-2-propanone **8** (88 and 75%) and 2-propanone **9** (80 and 86%) following hydrolysis of their corresponding vinyl thio ethers (Scheme 3).

These products were fully characterized and compared with authentic materials.

Likewise, phosphonate **7** was transformed into a mixture of (E)- and (Z)-2-(phenylmethylene)-tetrahydrothiopyran **10** and 2-(phenylmethylene)-2,3-dihydrothiopyran **11** when it was treated with benzaldehyde and (E)-(Z)-2-(ethylmethylene)-tetrahydrothiopyran **12** and 2-propyl-2,3-dihydrothiopyran **13** on reaction with propionaldehyde (Scheme 4). The vinyl sulfides **11** and **13** are the results of Basic Promoted of vinyl sulfides **10** and **12**, respectively.



SCHEME 3 i, THF, n-BuLi, -78°; benzaldehyde, THF, -78°; iii, Propionaldehyde, THF, -78°. iii, H<sub>2</sub>O, TiCl<sub>4</sub>.



SCHEME 4 i, THF, n-BuLi, -78°; ii, benzaldehyde, THF, -78°; iii, Propionaldehyde, THF, -78°.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Boiling points are uncorrected and are reported in degrees centigrade. The NMR spectra were measured with a varian EM-390. Signal positions are reported in PPM downfield from tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$  scale) as an internal standard. GCMS data were obtained from a varian MAT 112-S instrument fitted with a 6'  $\times$  1/8" glass carbowax 20 m (1%) column. Preparative GC were carried out with a thermal A-90-P Chromatograph with a thermal conductivity detector using a SE-30 column. Microanalyses were done by the Chemalytics, Inc. All solvents and chemicals were purified in the usual manner prior to their use.

### General Procedure for Preparation of $\alpha$ -phosphonyl Organosulfur Compounds

To a solution of an equimolar amount (200 mmol each) of trimethyl phosphite, vinyl thio ether and 150 ml of anhydrous ethyl ether in a 250 ml, three-necked, round bottom flask equipped with a condenser, magnetic stirrer, and gas inlet tube was added under an  $N_2$  atmosphere approximately 160 mmol of dry HCl gas.

The solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and the solvent was removed by distillation. The residue was distilled *in vacuo* to give the corresponding  $\alpha$ -phosphonyl organosulfur compounds. 5: Dimethyl ( $\alpha$ -ethyl thio ethyl) phosphonate: colorless liquid, 90%, b.p. 77–78°C (0.5 mmHg), M.S. m/e 199 ( $M^+$ ), anal. calcd. for  $C_6H_{15}O_3PS$ : C, 36.36; H, 7.58; P, 15.66. Found: C, 36.15; H, 7.70; P, 15.75.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  4.10 (6H, d,  $j = 15$  Hz), 2.81–3.10 (3H, m), 1.60–1.85 (6H, m),  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $CDCl_3/H_3PO_4$ ) = 26.7.

6: Dimethyl ( $\alpha$ -ethyl thio propyl) phosphonate: colorless liquid, 95%. b.p. 80–81°C (0.5 mmHg), M.S. m/e 213 ( $M^+$ ), anal. calcd. for  $C_7H_{17}O_3PS$ : C, 40.00; H, 7.14; P, 14.76. Found: C, 39.95; H, 7.01; P, 14.59.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  4.15 (6H, d,  $j = 15$  Hz), 2.85–3.17 (3H, m), 1.65–1.88 (8H, m),  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $CDCl_3/H_3PO_4$ ) = 26.2.

7: Dimethyl (2-tetrahydrothiopyranyl) phosphonate: colorless liquid, 92%, b.p. 98–100 (0.3 mmHg), M.S. m/e 209 ( $M^+$ ), anal. calcd. for  $C_7H_{15}O_3PS$ : C, 40.00; H, 7.14; P, 14.76. Found: C, 40.25; H, 7.09; P, 14.50.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ ) 4.15 (6H, d,  $j = 12$  Hz), 2.80–3.20 (3H, m)  $^{31}P$  NMR ( $CDCl_3/H_3PO_4$ ) = 25.6.

### General Procedure for Synthesis of Vinylthioethers

To a solution of phosphonate (50 mmol) and 100 ml of anhydrous THF at  $-78^\circ C$  under  $N_2$  atmosphere in a 250 ml, three-necked, round bottom flask equipped with a condenser, magnetic stirrer, and a dropping funnel; was added *n*-BuLi (50 mmol) in hexane over a period of 30 min to give a dark-red solution to which 50 mmol of aldehyde in 30 ml of THF was added dropwise at  $-78^\circ C$  during 30 min. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, then refluxed for another 1 h, followed by the usual work-up. Vinyl sulfides 10, 11 and 12, 13 were purified by kugelrohr distillation in 85% and 81% yield, respectively. Each pair was further separated by preparative GC, SE-30 Column, Vinyl sulfides 10 and 12 were obtained as mixtures of E and Z geometrical isomers without determining their compositions.  $^1H$  NMR, analytical and mass spectral data of them are as follows.

10: (E)- and (Z)-(phenylmethylene)-tetrahydrothiopyrane: colorless oil; M.S. m/e 191 ( $M^+$ ) anal. calcd. for  $C_{12}H_{14}S$ : C, 75.79; H, 7.37. Found: C, 75.83; H, 7.32.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.30–8.05 (10H, m, aromatic), 5.85 and 6.05 (2H, s,  $=CH$ ), 2.05–2.28 (4H, m,  $-CH_2-C=C-$ ), 1.80–1.98 (4H, m,  $-CH_2-S-$ ), 1.00–1.60 (8H, m,  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ).

11: 2-(Phenyl methyl)-2,3-dihydrothiopyrane: colorless oil; M.S. m/e 191 ( $M^+$ ) anal. Calcd. for  $C_{12}H_{14}S$ : C, 75.79; H, 7.37. Found: C, 75.73; H, 7.40.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.60 (5H, m), 5.05 (1H, t,  $=CH$ ,  $J_{HH} = 7.1$  Hz), 3.10 (2H, s,  $-CH_2-$ ), 2.40 (2H, t,  $-CH_2-C=C-$ ,  $J_{HH} = 6.5$  Hz), 1.95 (2H, t,  $-CH_2-S-$ ,  $J_{HH} = 7.10$  Hz), 1.05–1.70 (4H, m,  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ).

12: (E)-(Z)-2-(ethylmethylene)-tetrahydrothiopyrane: colorless liquid; M.S. m/e 143 ( $M^+$ ). Anal. calcd. for  $C_8H_{14}S$ : C, 67.61; H, 9.86. Found: C, 67.66; H, 9.90.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ ) 5.40 and 5.80 (2H, t,  $=CH$ ,  $j_{HH} = 7.30$  and 7.30 Hz), 1.80–2.55 (12H,  $-CH_2-CH=C$  and  $-CH_2-S-$ ), 0.90–1.50 (14H, m,  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ).

13: 2-propyl-2,3-dihydrothiopyrane: colorless liquid; M.S. m/e 143 ( $M^+$ ). Anal. calcd. for  $C_8H_{14}S$ : C, 67.61; H, 9.86. Found: C, 67.80; H, 9.55.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  5.50 (1H, t,  $=CH$ ,  $j_{HH} = 7.2$  Hz), 1.75–2.40 (6H, m,  $-CH_2-C=C-$ ,  $-CH_2-S-$ ), 0.85–1.60 (7H, m,  $-CH_2-C-$ ,  $-CH_3$ ).

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