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Preparation of Novel Polyoxo Ylides and Diylides and Their Behaviour Towards Pyrolysis and Oxidation

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PREPARATION OF NOVEL POLYOXO YLIDES AND DIYLIDES AND THEIR BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS PYROLYSIS AND OXIDATION

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We recently reported the preparation of the new trioxoylides 1 and their pyrolysis to give symmetrical diacylalkynes.¹ Reaction of acyl ylides with oxalyl chloride gives the tetraoxo diylides 2 as shown. The corresponding reactions starting from the α -oxoacyl ylides have been used to obtain examples of tetraoxo ylides 3 and hexaoxo diylides 4.

All the compounds are stable crystalline solids whose structure is fully supported by the interesting ¹³C NMR spectra. Flash vacuum pyrolysis (FVP) of 3 gives a mixture of isomeric alkynes as shown but the FVP of both 2 and 4 is rather complex. Oxidative cleavage of the ylide functions in all these compound types is of great interest as a route to vicinal polycarbonyl compounds and has already been achieved for 1 to give tetraones. Other aspects of the structure and reactivity of these compounds have been examined.

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