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### REACTION OF BENZOYLACETONE WITH CHLOROSULFONIC ACID

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## Communication

# REACTION OF BENZOYLACETONE WITH CHLOROSULFONIC ACID

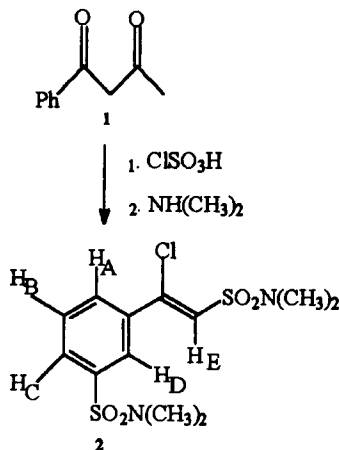
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**Key words:** Benzoylacetone, chlorosulfonic acid.

The work described in this paper forms part of our general research program concerned with the synthesis and biological properties of sulfonyl derivatives.<sup>1–3</sup> Previous work has demonstrated that benzalacetone with excess chlorosulfonic acid did not afford the expected 4, $\omega$ -disulfonyl chloride, but resulted in the formation of styrene-4, $\beta$ -disulfonyl chloride.<sup>4,5</sup> In view of these interesting results, we decided to examine the reaction of benzoylacetone **1** with chlorosulfonic acid. The reaction of benzoylacetone **1** with a large excess of chlorosulfonic acid produced a gum which was treated with aqueous dimethylamine (Scheme 1). The resulting product **2** was identified by micro analytical and spectral data.

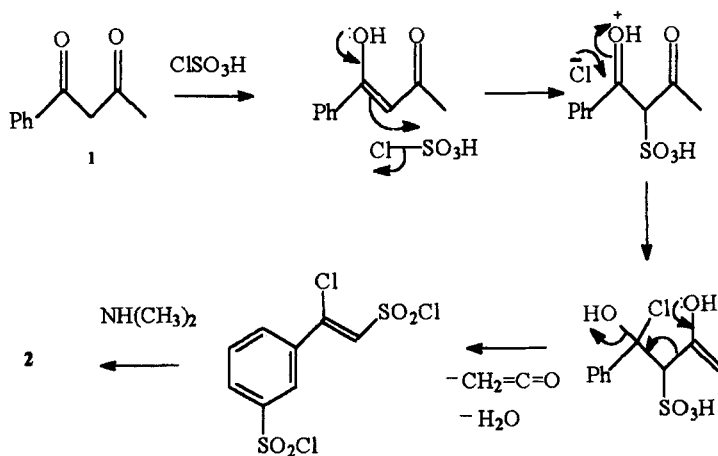


**Scheme 1.**

The mass spectrum of **2** showed the molecular ion,  $M/Z$  352/354 indicating the presence of a chlorine atom, and fragment ions 317, 308, and 244 corresponding to loss of Cl, NMe<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub> respectively. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis revealed aromatic protons ( $\delta$  8.1–7.0) and aliphatic protons ( $\delta$  3.0 and  $\delta$  2.8) which were assigned

to the  $\text{NMe}_2$  groups. The aromatic protons  $\text{H}_\text{B}$  and  $\text{H}_\text{D}$  both appeared as triplets from the coupling with protons  $\text{H}_\text{A}$  and  $\text{H}_\text{C}$  with coupling constant values 9.0 Hz and 2.4 Hz respectively. Proton  $\text{H}_\text{A}$  and  $\text{H}_\text{C}$  both appeared as multiplets owing to coupling with protons  $\text{H}_\text{B}$  and  $\text{H}_\text{D}$ . The presence of the vinylic chloride is supported by the absence of an E-alkenyl group (singlet due to the proton  $\text{H}_\text{E}$ ) coupling as previously reported.<sup>4</sup> The structure of the product could therefore be assigned as **2**. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **2** showed ten chemical shifts, of which three were assigned to the quaternary carbon atoms on the basis of DEPT-135 technique, further confirming the structure of **2**.

Previous studies<sup>6</sup> have shown that reaction of certain substituted acetophenones with chlorosulfonic acid generated  $\alpha$ -chloro- $\beta$ -chlorosulfonylstyrenes, contrary to reports by Weston and Suter.<sup>7</sup> In the reaction of benzalacetone with chlorosulfonic acid Cremlyn *et al.*<sup>4</sup> postulated the formation of  $\beta$ -chlorosulfonylstyrene by first enolization followed by  $\omega$ -chlorosulfonation and then migration of the sulfonyl moiety with elimination of ketene. Because of the additional activation provided by the styryl group, they suggested that side-chain substitution follows ring substitution. It is also likely that side-chain substitution follows ring substitution with **1** analogous to benzalacetone, i.e. *meta* substitution in the ring due to the influence of the carbonyl group. However, in the reaction of **1** with chlorosulfonic acid, direct sulfonation occurs on the methylene carbon (enol form) and the reaction then likely proceeds via the chlorohydrin intermediate: Scheme 2. Attempts to obtain the monosulfonyl chloride by reaction of **1** with chlorosulfonic acid (3 molar equivalents) in thionyl chloride were unsuccessful.



Scheme 2

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined using a Gallenkamp electric apparatus and are uncorrected. The NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AC250 spectrometer using tetramethylsilane as internal standard and deuteriochloroform as solvent. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin-Elmer 257 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were obtained with a VG micromass V15 spectrometer operating at 70 eV.

*$\alpha$ -Chloro-styrene-bis-3,  $\beta$ -(N,N-dimethylsulfonamide) 2.* Benzoylacetone (5.0 g, 0.031 moles) was gradually added to Chlorosulfonic acid (36.0 g, 0.31 moles) at 0°. The mixture was heated on a water bath for 3 hours. It was slowly added to ice-water and the resulting sticky gum was directly treated with aqueous dimethylamine to yield the product **2**, which was recrystallised from ethanol, 3.9 g (33%), m.p. 133°; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$  1600 (C=C stretch), 1340, 1160 (SO<sub>2</sub> stretch) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>-d)  $\delta$  7.65–8.10 (multiplet, 4H, aromatic protons),  $\delta$  7.03 (singlet, CH=CCl),  $\delta$  2.8, 3.0 (12H, SO<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>); MS m/z 352, 354 M<sup>+</sup>, 317 (M<sup>+</sup>-Cl), 244 (M<sup>+</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 41.0; H, 4.8; N, 8.0. Found: C, 41.3; H, 4.5; N, 7.8.

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