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Synthesis of Racemic 1-Aminoindan-1-Phosphonic Acid

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As part of our studies on the design, synthesis and evaluation of inhibitors of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase [1-3], we have investigated the preparation of (±)-1-aminoindan-1-phosphonic acid, a structural isomer of the strongest in vivo inhibitor [2]. After our unsuccessful amidophosphonylation of 1-indanone, we turned our attention to hydrophosphonylation of N-(1'-indanylidene)diphenylmethylamine obtained from 1-indanone and diphenylmethylamine, according to the known procedure for aldehydes [4, 5]. Diethyl (±)-1-(diphenylmethylamino)indan-1-phosphonate has been obtained as shown on the scheme reaction.

$$\bigcap_{O} \longrightarrow \bigcap_{NCH(C_6H_6)_2} \longrightarrow_{(C_6H_6)_2CHNH} \bigcap_{PO(OC_2H_6)_2}$$

Debenzhydrylation by hydrogen on palladium and then acidic hydrolysis of diethyl (±)-1-(diphenylmethylamino)indan-1-phosphonate gave (±)-1-aminoindan-1-phosphonic acid. We also obtained 1-aminocyclopentyl-1-phosphonic acid from cyclopentanone by the same procedure. The above two examples extend the Green procedure for ketones. However, this procedure failed for synthesis of diethyl (±)-1-(diphenylmethylamino)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-1-phosphonate from α-tetralone. Direct acidic hydrolysis of diethyl (±)-1-(diphenylmethylamino)indan-1-phosphonate provides the P-C break products which will be discussed somewhere else. The use of benzylamine instead of diphenylmethylamine did not lead to diethyl (±)-1-(benzylamino)indan-1-phosphonate. We observed a change of conformation of (±)-1-aminoindan-1-phosphonic acid during change of pH of solution from acidic or neutral to basic one.

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