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## COMMUNICATION

# Novel Observation on Base-Catalyzed Benzoylation of Dialkyl Phosphoranilidates

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*N*-Benzoylated dialkyl phosphoranilidates undergo stereoretentive rearrangement to (*N*-phenylimino) benzylidenoxy derivatives. These derivatives hydrolyse in pyridine exclusively via attack by water at *N*-phenylimino carbon.

We previously reported that the reaction of adenosine 3',5'-cyclic phosphoranilidate (diastereomeric ratio Rp : Sp = 5:7) with benzoyl chloride, performed in pyridine, followed by aqueous work-up of the reaction mixture, yields the expected *N*<sup>6</sup>,*N*<sup>6</sup>,*O*<sup>2'</sup>-tribenzoyladenosine cyclic 3',5'-phosphoranilidate, but the yield of this desired product was moderate only and the overall process was accompanied by the dramatic change of diastereomeric composition (ratio Rp : Sp = 10:1).<sup>1</sup> *N*<sup>6</sup>,*N*<sup>6</sup>,*O*<sup>2'</sup>-Tribenzoyladenosine 3',5'-cyclic phosphate was isolated as a preponderant but unexpected product. The latter observation indicated, that aroylation of the phosphoranilidate functional group predominates over *N*<sup>6</sup>- and *O*<sup>2'</sup>-benzoylation.

To elucidate the mechanism responsible for the poor yield of key-intermediates for the preparation of diastereomers of cAMPS<sup>2</sup> and [<sup>18</sup>O]cAMP,<sup>3</sup> we undertook model studies on the reaction of diastereomeric 2-*N*-phenylamino-2-oxo-4-methyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinanes (1)<sup>4</sup> with benzoyl chloride in pyridine solvent. The reaction progress was followed by <sup>31</sup>P NMR. Thus, the spectra of the reaction mixture of *trans*-1<sup>5</sup> (1 mmole) with benzoyl chloride (5 mmole) in pyridine (1.5 ml) have shown the slow disappearance of the signal at -1.1 ppm corresponding to substrate *trans*-1 and the appearance of two new signals: at -7.8 ppm and -17.2 ppm. A similar picture was obtained if *cis*-1 ( $\delta_{^{31}\text{P}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})} = -5.4$  ppm) was used as the substrate. Figure 1 shows the reaction dynamics for both diastereomers.

An inspection of figure 1 clearly indicates that reactivity was lower for *cis*-1 and that compounds absorbing at -7.8 ppm and -11.1 ppm, respectively, presented transient intermediates undergoing transformation to final products absorbing at -17.2 ppm.<sup>6,7</sup>

Our working hypothesis included *N*- and *O*-benzoylation in both *cis*- and *trans*-1, leading to the corresponding *cis*- and *trans*-2 and 3, respectively.

To check this hypothesis we prepared *cis*-[<sup>15</sup>N]-1 (isotopic enrichment 50%, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>31P,15N</sub> 34 Hz) and treated it with benzoyl chloride in pyridine medium. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of resulting reaction mixture, recorded after 2 hr revealed an overlapped

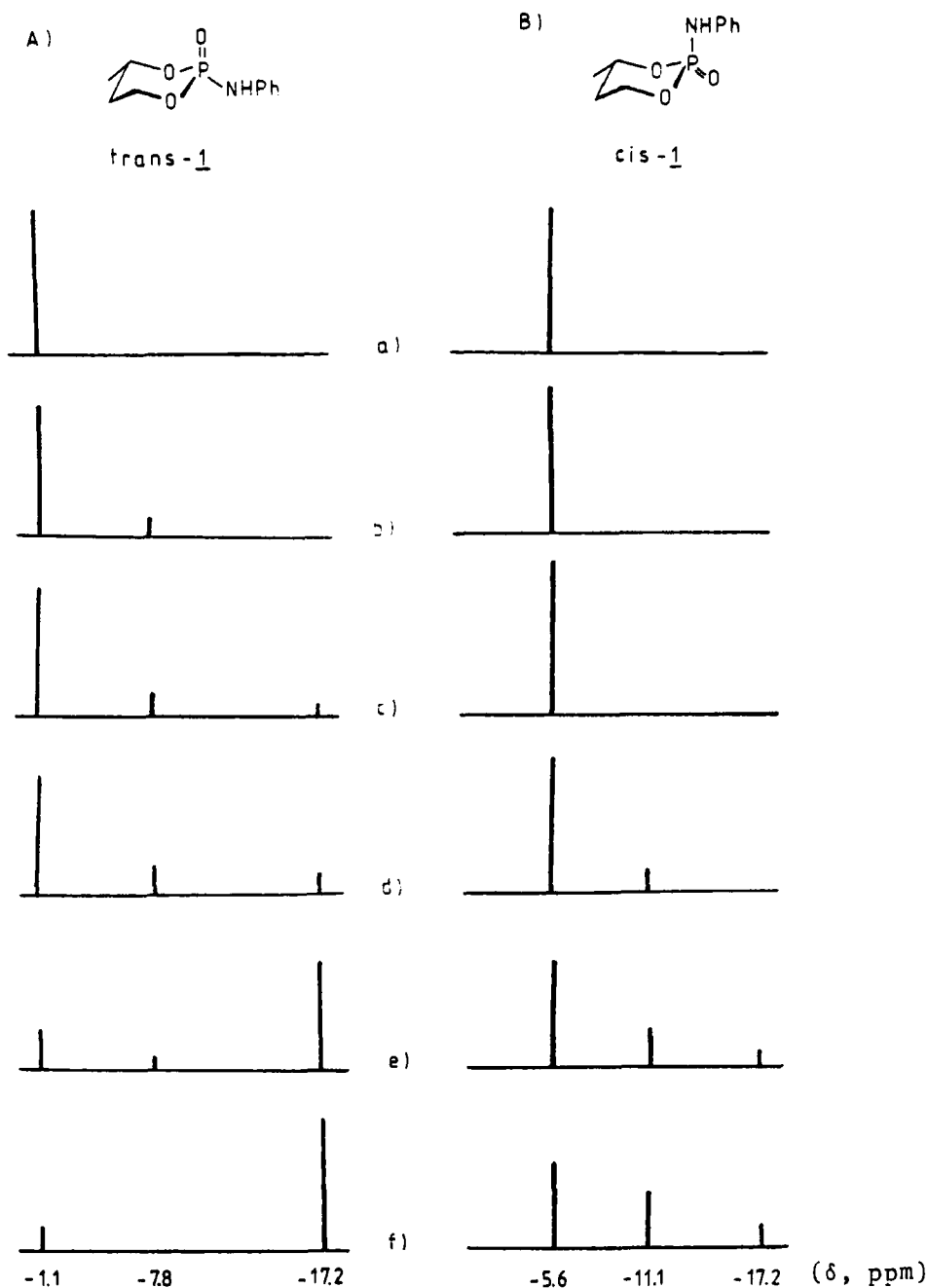
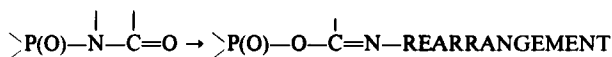


FIGURE 1. Schematic representation of  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of the reaction mixtures of pyridine solutions of A) *trans*-1 and B) *cis*-1 with benzoyl chloride, recorded: a) immediately after mixing of both components, b) after 0.5 hr of standing at room temperature, c) after 1 hr, d) after 2 hr, e) after 24 hr, h) after 48 hr.

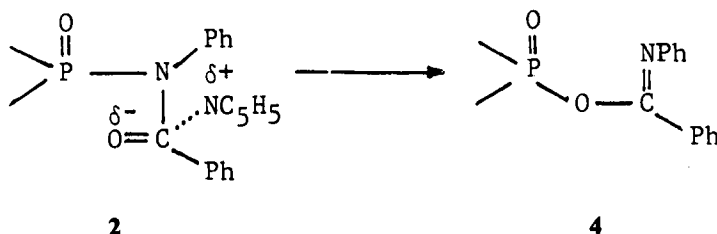


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singlet and doublet centered at  $-11.1$  ppm, with coupling constant of doublet  $^1J_{^{31}\text{P}-^{15}\text{N}}$  28 Hz. The slow disappearance of the signal at  $-11.1$  ppm (see Figure 1) accompanied an increase in the  $-17.2$  ppm signal. The  $-17.2$  ppm resonance did not exhibit splitting resulting from the direct  $^{31}\text{P}-^{15}\text{N}$  spin-spin interactions. The NMR results were crucial for assigning the structure *cis*-**2** for the species absorbing at  $-11.1$  ppm (for *N*-benzoylated species derived from *trans*-**1**  $\delta_{^{31}\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{N})} - 7.8$  ppm) and excluded the structure **3** for species absorbing at  $-17.2$  ppm. Structure **3** derived from  $^{15}\text{N}$ -**1** should feature the doublet due to spin-spin interaction between directly bonded  $^{31}\text{P}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$ .<sup>8</sup>

As an alternative structure for compound(s) absorbing at  $-17.2$  ppm<sup>7</sup> we considered species **4** that may result from pyridine-catalysed rearrangement of **2**  $\rightarrow$  **4** according to the mechanism common for Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons type reaction<sup>9</sup>.



Compound of structure **4** should possess a  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR signal at ca.  $-15$  ppm<sup>10</sup> like other anhydrides involving dialkyl phosphate group. Also the  $^3J_{\text{POC}^{15}\text{N}}$  value should be negligible and the hydrolysis of compound of structure **4** should yield dialkyl phosphate via nucleophilic attack on either phosphorus or carbon.

To elucidate the structure of compound(s) absorbing at  $-17.2$  ppm we treated **1** (1 mmole) with benzoyl chloride (5 mmoles) in pyridine (1.5 ml) and hydrolyzed the resulting products at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  with  $^{18}\text{O}|\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (8 mmoles). The reaction mixture resulting from 48 hr exposure of *trans*-**1** on benzoyl chloride (signals at  $-1.1$  ppm and  $-17.2$  ppm) was treated with  $^{18}\text{O}|\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (70% isotopic enrichment). The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture showed the complete disappearance of the  $-17.2$  ppm signal and showed only signals at  $-1.1$  ppm (unchanged *trans*-**1**) and at  $-3.83$  ppm characteristic for 2-hydroxy-2-oxo-4-methyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinane (**5**). Isolation of both compounds and their mass-spectrometric examination had confirmed the structures of **1** and **5** and also indicated that compound **5** (analyzed after its *O*-benzylation<sup>3</sup>) did not contain any oxygen-18.

In a parallel experiment, *cis*-**1** was treated with benzoyl chloride in pyridine and the reaction mixture, including **1** and two products absorbing in  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum at  $-11.1$  ppm and  $-17.2$  ppm (intensities ratio 4:1) was hydrolyzed with  $^{18}\text{O}|\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

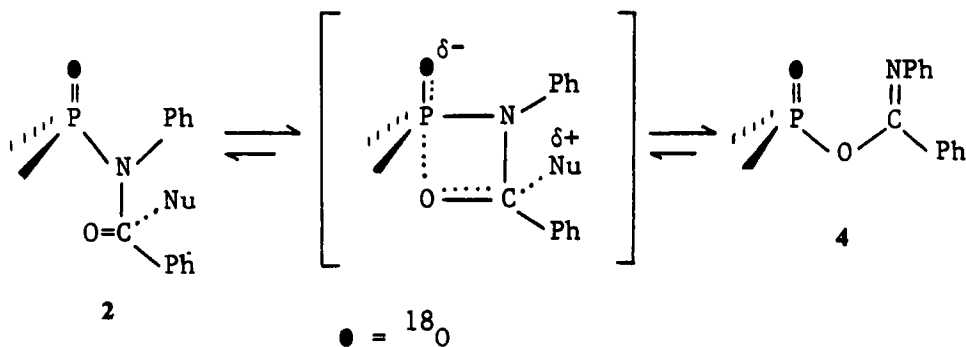
$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR examination did show the disappearance of both signals at  $-11.1$  ppm and  $-17.2$  ppm. The isolated **5**, again, did not contain any oxygen-18. The lack of  $^{18}\text{O}$  incorporation indicated that hydrolysis of **4** must occur via nucleophilic attack of water at *N*-phenylimino carbon.

However, these experiments did not allow us to draw any conclusions about stereochemistry of **2**  $\rightarrow$  **4** rearrangement. Because the literature indicates that *N*-acylated phosphoramidates undergo neutral or acid-catalyzed hydrolysis with an attack of water at phosphoryl centre<sup>11</sup> the lack of incorporation of oxygen-18 in **5** resulting from hydrolysis of mixture *cis*-**2** and **4** was unexpected and required further elucidation.

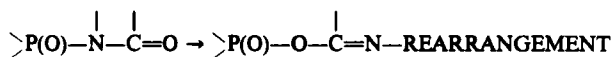
Reaction of *trans*-**1** with benzoyl chloride in pyridine was quenched with  $^{18}\text{O}[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  at the point, when  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR assay showed the presence of unchanged **1** and **2** ( $\delta_{\text{P}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})} -7.8$  ppm) only. The isolated **5** was benzylated with phenyldiazomethane<sup>12</sup> and mass-spectral analysis had confirmed the lack of incorporation of oxygen-18 in **5**. An analogous experiment with *trans*-2-phenylamino-2- $^{18}\text{O}$  oxo-4-methyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinane ( $^{18}\text{O}$ -**1**, 58% of oxygen-18 at phosphoryl terminal position) and hydrolysis of reaction mixture containing **1** and **2** only ( $\delta_{\text{P}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N})} -1.1$  ppm and  $-7.8$  ppm) with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , followed by isolation of **5**, its conversion to the mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-2-benzyloxy-2-oxo-4-methyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinane (**6**) according to published procedure<sup>3</sup> had indicated, that overall conversion **1**  $\rightarrow$  **5** occurred with retention of isotope content and retention of configuration at phosphorus.

In summary we conclude that:

1. Benzoylation of dialkyl phosphoranilidates with benzoyl chloride in pyridine occurs with formation of dialkyl *N*-benzoyl phosphoranilidate, structure **2** (kinetic product). No reaction leading to *O*-benzoylated product of structure **3** occurs.
2. Compound **2** slowly isomerises into the thermodynamically more stable **4**. Hydrolysis of **4** in pyridine occurs with exclusive attack of water molecule on carbon atom of *N*-phenylimino group with formation of benzanilide and dialkyl phosphate (**5**, pyridinium salt).
3. Rearrangement **2**  $\rightarrow$  **4**, most probably catalyzed by pyridine, is facilitated by water and occurs with retention of configuration at phosphorus (Scheme 1).



SCHEME 1



4. An equilibrium  $2 \rightleftharpoons 4$  depends on reaction medium as proved by results of attempted hydrolysis of **2**. Compound of structure **2** does not undergo hydrolysis in pyridine as a reaction medium prior rearrangement to **4**.
5. Under analogous conditions benzoylation of cyclic phosphoranilidate *trans*-**1** occurs more readily than that of *cis*-**1**. Also the product **2** resulting from benzoylation of *trans*-**1** undergoes isomerisation to *trans*-**4** more readily than rearrangement of *cis*-**2** to *cis*-**4**. These facts can be rationalized on the basis of steric hindrance accompanying these reactions if the *N*-phenylamino group occupies an axial position in 1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinanyl ring system.

The results obtained in presented studies illuminate the reactivity of dialkyl phosphoramidates towards acylating reagents<sup>13</sup> and demonstrate the different course of acylation of dialkyl phosphoramidates as compared with their alkylation.<sup>14</sup> They also demonstrate the different course of events accompanying the pyridine-catalyzed hydrolysis of *N*-benzoylated dialkyl phosphoramidates as compared with their acid- or neutral hydrolysis.<sup>11</sup> Moreover these results confirm the formerly observed diastereoselectivity of benzoylation of adenosine 3',5'-cyclic phosphoranilidates and the course of events responsible for the formation of undesired *N*<sup>6</sup>, *N*<sup>6</sup>, *O*<sup>2'</sup>-tribenzoyladenine 3',5'-cyclic phosphate.<sup>1</sup>

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6. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded on Jeol JNM FX-60 (24.2 MHz) instruments. Negative values were assigned for compounds absorbing upfield from 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.
7. The reaction of diastereomeric mixture of 2-chloro-2-oxo-4-methyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphorinanes with sodium and benzanilide led to the mixture of products absorbing in <sup>31</sup>P NMR at -7.9 ppm, -11.8 ppm, -17.8 ppm, which proves that under applied spectroscopic conditions<sup>6</sup> diastereomers of **4** are indistinguishable.
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