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THE PREPARATION OF DIMETHYL PHOSPHOROCHLORIDITE AND ITS HOMOLOGS FROM TRIALKYL PHOSPHITES AND DICHLOROTRIPHENYLPHOSPHORANE

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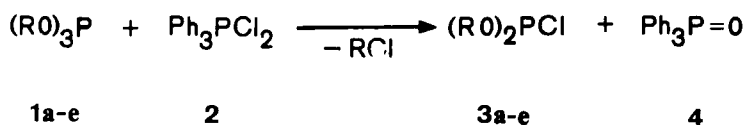
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A novel convenient synthesis of dialkyl phosphorochloridites based on the reaction of trialkyl phosphites with dichlorotriphenylphosphorane has been described. In this way the commonly used dialkyl phosphorochloridites (**3a-e**) were prepared in satisfactory yields. Their identity was confirmed by ^{31}P -NMR spectroscopy as well as by their refractive index.

Although a variety of synthetic approaches to dialkyl phosphorochloridites **3** have been reported^{1,3} only a few of them can be used for the preparation of dimethyl phosphorochloridite (**3a**)^{1g-j}. The most efficient of these methods utilize not easily available dimethyl *N,N*-dimethylphosphoroamidite which is treated with anhydrous hydrogen chloride.^{1h} Another operationally simple synthesis based on the reaction of trimethyl phosphite (**1a**) with phosphorus trichloride promoted by HMPT² affords **3a** contaminated with considerable amounts (7-8%) of the starting material, **1a**.^{2b} This paper reports a convenient synthesis of **3a** by treatment of trimethyl phosphite (**1a**) with an equimolar amount of dichlorotriphenylphosphorane (**2**). The phosphorane **2** is readily prepared by chlorination of triphenylphosphine⁴ and is utilized *in situ* for further transformation.



The reaction is carried out by refluxing the starting materials in dichloromethane. Triphenylphosphine oxide (**4**) formed as a byproduct is easily removed from the reaction mixture by precipitation with ether. Evaporation of the solvent followed by distillation of the residue affords **3a** in 57% yield. The product obtained in this way is 96-98% pure according to the ^{31}P -NMR spectrum and contains ~2% of trimethyl phosphite ($\delta = 141$ ppm) and/or ~2% of methyl phosphorodichloridite ($\delta = 178.5$ ppm). It has been also found that chlorination of other trialkyl phosphites **1b-e** with **2** in benzene at higher temperature (see Table I) affords the corresponding dialkyl phosphorochloridites, **3b-e** in good yield and excellent purity (97-99% according to the ^{31}P -NMR spectrum). Presumably, the driving force of this reaction is an intermolecular ligand exchange between **1** and chlorotriphenylphosphonium chloride, which represents

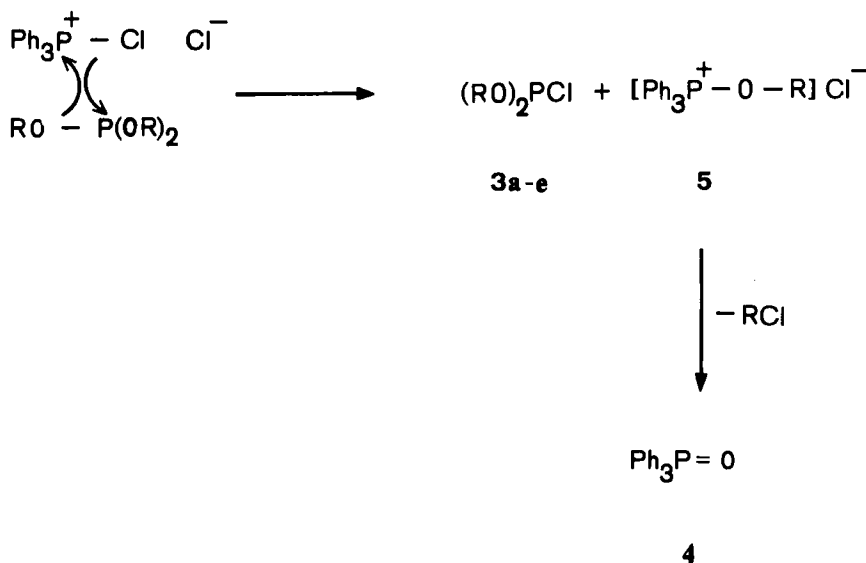
TABLE I
Dialkyl phosphorochloridites (RO)₂PCl, **3a-e**

3	R	Reaction conditions ^a		Yield [%]	b.p. [°C]/torr		³¹ P-NMR δ [ppm]		n _D ²⁰	
		Temperature [°C]	Time [h]		Observed	Literature	Observed ^b	Literature	Observed	Literature
a	CH ₃	40	3	57	45/80	30/35 ^{1g}	167	169 ^{1g}	1.4367	1.4356 ¹ⁱ
b	C ₂ H ₅	50	1.5	71	48/15	45-50/12 ^{1f}	164	165 ^{1f}	1.4372	1.4376 ^{1f}
c	n-C ₃ H ₇	50	1	76	78-80/17	80/17 ^{1d}	170	164 ³	1.4430	1.4426 ^{1d}
d	i-C ₃ H ₇	50	1	38	60/12	62-64/12 ^{1d}	163	165 ³	1.4335	1.4331 ³
e	n-C ₄ H ₉	50	1	69	88-90/10	115-117/25 ^{1d}	162	164 ³	1.4451	1.4454 ^{1d}

^a All reactions are carried out under dry argon. Commercially available trialkyl phosphites were purified by conventional methods.

^b Measured at 36.43 MHz on a Bruker HFX 90 NMR Spectrometer (C₆H₆/85% H₃PO₄ ext.).

an ionic structure of **2**, leading to the products **3a-e** and the quasiphosphonium salts **5**. The salts **5** are subsequently stabilized by dealkylation to produce triphenylphosphonium oxide **4** and the corresponding alkyl chlorides.



EXPERIMENTAL

Dimethyl phosphorochloridite, 3a. A gaseous chlorine (7.09 g, 0.1 mol) in a stream of dry argon is passed slowly through a stirred solution of triphenylphosphine (26.2 g, 0.1 mol) in dichloromethane (200 ml) at +5°C and the mixture is set aside for 30 min at room temperature. To the resulting mixture trimethyl phosphite (12.4 g, 0.1 mol) is added dropwise with stirring at +5°C, the mixture is kept for 1 h at room temperature and then refluxed for 3 h. The solvent is then evaporated under reduced pressure (100 Torr) using a short Vigreux column and 70 ml of dry ether is added to the residue. The mixture is refrigerated for 3–8 h, the triphenylphosphine oxide precipitated is filtered off, and the solvent is evaporated under reduced pressure (80 Torr, using a short Vigreux column). The residue is distilled *in vacuo*. Yield: 7.3 g (57%); b.p. 45°C/80 Torr, Lit.^{1g} b.p. 30°C/35 Torr.

Dialkyl phosphorochloridites, 3b-e (general procedure). To dichlorotriphenylphosphorane prepared as described above, (**2**; 0.1 mol, dissolved in 200 ml of benzene) the trialkyl phosphite (**1b-e**; 0.1 mol) is added dropwise at +5°C and the mixture is stirred for 1 h at room temperature and then for 1 h or 1.5 h (see Table I) at 50°C. The solvent is evaporated under reduced pressure (45 Torr) and 70 ml of

dry ether is added to the residue. The triphenylphosphine oxide, **4** precipitated is filtered off. The filtrate is evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue is distilled in vacuo to give pure **3b-e** (see Table I).

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