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REGIOCHEMICAL STEERING AND ASSIGNMENT IN CYCLOADDITIONS OF NITRONES TO DIPHENYLVINYLPHOSPHINE OXIDE

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REGIOCHEMICAL STEERING AND ASSIGNMENT IN CYCLOADDITIONS OF NITRONES TO DIPHENYLVINYLPHOSPHINE OXIDE

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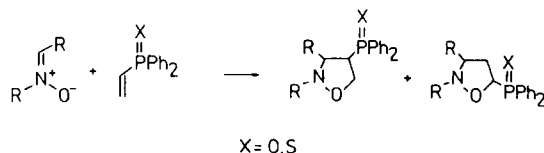
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In 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of C,N-diphenylnitrone to diphenylvinylphosphine oxide (and also to diphenylvinylphosphine sulphide) the 4-substituted phosphinyl isoxazolidine is formed predominantly but in case of a cyclic nitron the 5-substituted regioisomer prevails. Regiochemical distinctions between the isomeric phosphinyl isoxazolidines are best executed by means of ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

Key words: 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition; diphenylvinylphosphine oxide; C,N-diphenylnitrone; phosphinylisoxazolidine; regioselective addition.

1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition of nitrones to monosubstituted alkenes is typically highly efficient in selective production of 5-substituted isoxazolidines and only some heteroatom electron-withdrawing substituents on the alkene have been found capable of steering the reaction towards the preferential formation of the corresponding 4-substituted regioisomers.^{2,3} The pertinent directing ability of a phosphinyl group has however been very little recognized.^{4,5} In connection with our project aimed at utilization of chiral phosphine oxides as dipolarophiles⁶ we have briefly examined some model reactions involving diphenylvinylphosphine oxide and acyclic and cyclic nitrones and our preliminary results, which provide the first tenable⁴ insight into the regioselectivity of such reactions, are reported herein.



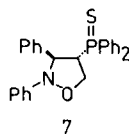
In all studied cases the reaction led to a mixture of isomeric isoxazolidines. As can be seen from Table I, the composition of the regioisomeric mixture depends on the structure of the nitron and is decidedly one-sided only for the cyclic

TABLE I
Cycloaddition of Nitrones to Diphenylvinylphosphine Oxide

Entry	Nitron	Reaction conditions	Yield ^a [%]	Isoxazolidines		
				5-substituted	4-substituted	Ratio ^b
1		benzene 80°C, 1.5d	82			40 ^c :60
2		benzene 80°C, 2d	88			63 ^d :37
3		chloroform r.t., 7d	90			86:14

^a Yields are for isolated material. ^b From ³¹P NMR spectra. ^c Cis/trans ratio 63:37 (³¹P NMR). ^d Cis/trans ratio 82:18 (¹H NMR).

nitron. For acyclic nitrones the regiochemistry seems to be more delicately balanced since the reversal of regiochemical preference can be brought about by relatively minor structural changes in the substrate (cf. entry 1 and 2, Table I).^{7,9} Interestingly however, a considerable enhancement of selectivity towards the formation of the 4-substituted regioisomer can be simply attained by replacement of diphenylvinylphosphine oxide with diphenylvinylphosphine sulphide. In reaction with C,N-diphenylnitron the latter dipolarophile afforded isoxazolidine **7** with 86% (³¹P NMR) selectivity (overall reaction yield 90%).



All the isoxazolidines **1–7** were unambiguously identified by means of ¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy and by MS, and were assigned the relative stereo-¹⁰ and regiochemistry. The regiochemical assignment followed unequivocally from the corresponding ¹³C NMR spectra in which positions of easily discernible signals of carbons coupled directly to phosphorus (large ¹J_{P-C}) were highly diagnostic being at least 20 ppm more upfield in the 4-substituted regioisomers. The data collected in Table II typify this correlation which offers indeed a very dependable tool for distinction of regioisomers among the phosphorus substituted isoxazolidines and isoxazolines. Some of those compounds have in fact been

TABLE II
Selected ^{13}C NMR and ^{31}P NMR data of isoxazolidines 1–7^a

	1 cis	1 trans	2	3 cis	3 trans	4	5	6	7
δ C-3 ^b	69.38 (5.3)	69.84 (6.8)	70.12	72.00	72.00	72.47	63.75 (7.1)	64.53	71.09 (4.1)
δ C-4	40.25	41.80	53.71 (71.2)	39.76	40.30	51.45 (73.0)	38.67	51.76 (73.2)	54.18 (56.3)
δ C-5	74.57 (85.0)	75.80 (84.5)	67.39	74.20 (84.8)	74.24 (86.6)	65.91	75.16 (88.5)	66.13 (1.8)	68.30 (3.8)
δ ^{31}P	28.09	27.76	27.27	28.27	28.80	28.85	28.60	28.97	43.10

^a Spectra recorded in CDCl_3 at 20 MHz (^{13}C) and 32.203 (^{31}P) respectively.

^b In ppm. Phosphorus–carbon coupling constants are given in parentheses (Hz).

previously misassigned and the present study provides the corresponding verifications.^{4,11}

In conclusion, it appears that regiochemistry of cycloadditions of nitrones to vinyl phosphine oxides (or sulphides) is very sensitive even to minor structural changes in either of the two components. This however implies, that by judicious matching of the substrates the selectivity in such additions may likely be brought to a synthetically useful level. Further investigations along this line are actively continued.

EXPERIMENTAL

Experimental conditions for individual reactions are specified in Table I or in the text. The reactions were usually monitored by ^{31}P NMR which indicated both, the end point of the additions and, the composition of the isomeric mixtures. After evaporation of the solvent, purification and separation of regioisomers was typically accomplished by flash chromatography using mixtures of methylene chloride and ethyl acetate or, chloroform and methanol as eluents or, by crystallization from ethanol or carbon tetrachloride.

The reassignment of the preferred regiochemistry in reactions of C,N-diphenylnitrone with diphenylvinylphosphine oxide and diphenylvinylphosphine sulphide relies on the following authentication.

2: mp. 205–6°C (lit.⁴ 195–6°C); IR (CCl_4) 3080, 3040, 3000, 2880, 1600, 1490, 1455, 1440, 1180, 1120, 1110 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.66 (br dq, $J = 1.8, 8, 8$ Hz, $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 8$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.90 (dd, $J = 7.2$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.85–7.73 (m, 20H). For ^{13}C and ^{31}P NMR data see Table II. Elemental analysis for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2\text{P}$: calc. C 76.22; H 5.68; N 3.29. Found C 75.92; H 5.64; N 3.93. Spectral data for the corresponding 5-substituted regioisomers **1** are: ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ cis 2.59 (ddt, $J = 5.7, 7.8, 12.5$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.08 (ddt, $J = 8.6, 8.6, 12.5$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd, $J = 5.7, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.08 (dt, $J = 7.7, 8.6$ Hz, $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 7.7, 1\text{H}$), 6.85–7.97 (m, 20H); δ trans 2.65 (m, 1H), 3.17 (m, 1H), 4.72 (t, $J = 7.8, 1\text{H}$), 4.99 (ddd, $J = 2.7, 10.2$ Hz, $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.85–8.05 (m, 20H). IR (CDCl_3) 3070, 3040, 3000, 2960, 2880, 1600, 1490, 1455, 1440, 1245, 1190, 1120 cm^{-1} . Exact mass for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2\text{P}$: calc. 425.1544. Found 425.1536. For ^{13}C and ^{31}P NMR data see Table II.

7: mp. 163–5°C (from Et_2O); IR (KBr pellet) 3070, 3030, 3010, 2930, 2875, 1600, 1490, 1450, 1435, 1105, 1100, 750, 740, 705, 690 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.97–4.06 (m, 1H), 4.26–4.42 (m, 2H), 4.98 (dd, $J = 7.1$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 17.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.89–7.89 (m, 20H). For ^{13}C and ^{31}P NMR see Table II. Elemental analysis for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{24}\text{NOSP}$: calc. C 73.44; H 5.47; N 3.17. Found C 72.93; H 5.56; N 3.82.

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7. IP value (7.75 eV)⁸ for C,N-diphenylnitrone implies that its HOMO lies somewhat higher than the HOMO of the corresponding C-phenyl-N-methylnitrone (IP = 8.01 eV)⁸; this difference might account for the observed shift in regioselectivity.
8. G. H. Armen, C. Braunstein, M. I. Weinstein and A. D. Baker, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **1979**, 4197.
9. The replacement of Ph—P by Me—P substituent in the phosphine oxide results in similar reversal of the preferred regiochemistry. Cf. ref. 6.
10. Due to complexity of the ¹H NMR spectra caused by extensive proton-phosphorus coupling the stereochemical assignment should be regarded tentative. The observed formation of only one of the two possible 4-substituted stereoisomers in each studied case is most likely to originate from the preference for a transition state in which phosphinyl group and nitrone C-substituent are oriented away from each other to avoid unfavourable interactions.
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