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A FACILE SYNTHESIS OF N-DIETHOXYPHOSPHORYLFORMAMIDINES

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The convenient synthesis of *N*-phosphorylated formamidines, **3** based on the reaction of diethyl(ethoxymethylene)phosphoramidate, **1** with primary and secondary amines is described.

Key words: *N*-Diethoxyphosphorylformamidines; ethyl [*N*-(diethoxyphosphoryl)]formimide; amines; nucleophilic substitution.

INTRODUCTION

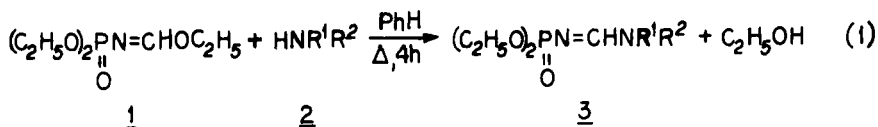
N-Phosphorylated amidines are useful compounds employed as potential herbicides¹ and antitubercular agents.² Several methods have been reported³ for the preparation of this class of amidine derivatives. They can be obtained by: (i) phosphorylation of amidines and chloroamidines with phosphites^{4,5} or phosphorochloridates,⁴ (ii) the reaction of amines with *N*-phosphorylated imidates,^{7,8} thioimidates⁷ or imidoyl chlorides,⁹⁻¹¹ (iii) the reaction of phosphoryl azides with enamines,^{2,12} (iv) reaction of phosphoramides with dimethylformamide acetals.¹ The recent report by Khayat and Al-Isa¹³ recommends the synthesis of **3** by treating *N*-phosphorylated isobutyl formimidates with amines. The method suffers, however, several inconveniences. The starting imidates are obtained from highly toxic phosphoryl azides¹⁴ reacting with a large excess of isobutyl vinyl ether and a long reaction time is required. Furthermore, the substrates are hygroscopic¹⁵ and the procedure seems hazardous due to the evolution of diazomethane.

In connection with our investigations on the reactivity of ethyl[*N*-(diethoxyphosphoryl)]formimide, **1** with nucleophiles¹⁶ we wish to report now a simpler method for the preparation of the title compounds, **3**.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We were able to demonstrate that *N*-diethoxyphosphorylformamidines, **3** can be conveniently obtained by condensation of easily available¹⁶ ethyl[*N*-(diethoxyphosphoryl)]formimide, **1** with primary or secondary amines (Equation 1). The general character of this procedure is exemplified below.

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2,3	R ¹	R ²	2,3	R ¹	R ²
a	H	n-C ₃ H ₇	g	CH ₃	CH ₃
b	H	i-C ₃ H ₇	h	C ₂ H ₅	C ₂ H ₅
c	H	n-C ₄ H ₉	i	n-C ₃ H ₇	n-C ₃ H ₇
d	H	c-C ₆ H ₁₁	j	i-C ₃ H ₇	i-C ₃ H ₇
e	H	C ₆ H ₅	k	-(CH ₂) ₄ -	
f	H	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	l	-CH=CH-N=CH-	

In the case of secondary amines, (2h-l) the reaction is carried out by refluxing the formimidate 1 with a 4-fold excess of the appropriate amine 2 in benzene. Evaporation of solvent followed by distillation of the residue affords 3 in high yields (Table I). The analogous procedure applied to primary amines (2a-f) gives lower yields of 3. The relatively low yields of 3a-f can be explained by assuming an amine exchange reaction between the initially formed *N*-phosphorylformamides and an excess of amine. Similar reaction occurs readily with acylamides.¹⁷

In order to suppress this side reaction we have modified the synthetic procedure by adding dropwise one equivalent of primary amine to a benzene solution of 1. All compounds prepared by this preparative variant are formed in high yields (example 3a-f, Table I). Because of the high volatility of dimethyla-

TABLE I
N-Diethoxyphosphorylformamides (3a-f)

Compound No.	Yield ^a (%)	Method, duration (h)	B. p. (°C/torr)	n_D^{20}	Molecular formula ^d
3a	78	B, 4	184-186/1.4	1.4560	C ₉ H ₁₉ N ₂ O ₃ P(222.2)
3b	78	B, 4	160-162/0.3	1.4570	C ₈ H ₁₉ N ₂ O ₃ P(222.2)
3c	72	B, 4	176-180/0.4	1.4566	C ₉ H ₂₁ N ₂ O ₃ P(236.3)
3d	78	B, 4	180-182/0.4	1.4810	C ₁₁ H ₂₃ N ₂ O ₃ P(262.3)
3e	74	B, 8	142-144/0.4	1.5324	C ₁₁ H ₁₇ N ₂ O ₃ P(256.2)
3f	56	B, 6	162-164/0.3	1.4918	C ₁₂ H ₁₉ N ₂ O ₃ P(270.3)
3g	88	B, ^c	160-161/2.2	1.4675 ^b	C ₇ H ₁₇ N ₂ O ₃ P(208.2)
3h	86	A, 4	129-130/0.15	1.4610	C ₉ H ₂₁ N ₂ O ₃ P(236.3)
3i	76	A, 4	140-142/0.4	1.4592	C ₁₁ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₃ P(264.3)
3j	66	A, 4	122-124/0.2	1.4556	C ₁₁ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₃ P(264.3)
3k	70	A, 4	140-142/0.1	1.4668	C ₉ H ₂₉ N ₂ O ₃ P(234.2)
3l	78	A, 4	102-103/1.7	1.4557	C ₈ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₃ P(231.2)

^a Yield of distilled products;

^b Lit.¹ n_D^{20} 1.4691

^c The reaction was carried out for 4 days at room temperature.

^d Satisfactory microanalysis obtained: C ± 0.34, H ± 0.22, N ± 0.30, P ± 0.21.

TABLE II
Spectroscopic data of *N*-diethoxyphosphorylformamidines **3**

Compound	IR(film) ^a $\nu(\text{cm}^{-1})$	¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃ /TMS) ^b δ (ppm)/ J (Hz)	³¹ P NMR δ (ppm)(H ₂ O)
3a	3250, 3064, 1656, 1220, 1060, 1036, 982	0.90, 0.94 (2t, 3H, $J = 7.0$) CH ₃ ; 1.30, 1.31 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.58 (bsx, 2H, $J = 7.0$) CH ₂ ; 3.13, 3.33 (2t, 2H, $J = 7.0$) CH ₂ N; 4.03 (2d, 1H, $J = 21.6$, 21.9) CH=N	11.6, 11.8 (33:67)
3b	3240, 3075, 1640, 1620, 1222, 1075, 980	1.19 (d, 6H, $J = 6.6$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.30, 1.31 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.0$) 2CH ₃ ; 3.40, 3.80 (m, 1H) CNH; 4.03, 4.06 (2qt, 4H, $J = 7.0$) 2CH ₂ O; 8.00, 8.06 (2d, 1H, $J = 21.6$, 21.9) CH=N	11.8, 10.0 (73:13)
3c	3270, 3065, 1640, 1630, 1218, 1050, 983	0.92 (bt, 3H, $J = 6.0$) CH ₃ ; 1.30, 1.31 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.0$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.15–1.85 (m, 4H) CH ₂ CH ₂ ; 3.10–3.55 (m, 2H) CH ₂ ; 4.03, 4.08 (2qt, 4H, $J = 7.0$) 2CH ₂ O; 7.90, 8.09 (2d, 1H, $J = 24.0$, 21.6) CH=N	11.3 (100)
3d	3240, 3062, 1638, 1617, 1220, 1050, 990, 965	1.31, 1.32 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.10–2.22 (m, 10H)(CH ₂) ₅ ; 2.80–3.35 (m, 1H) CHN; 4.04, 4.10 (2qt, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ O; 7.87 (bd, 1H, $J = 22.5$) CH=N	12.0, 10.0 (62:38)
3e	3290, 3220, 3150, 3000, 1650, 1610, 1226, 1064, 990, 830, 770	1.31, 1.32 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 4.10 (qt, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ O; 6.92–7.83 (m, 5H) C ₆ H ₅ ; 8.54, 8.62 (2d, 1H, $J = 23.8$, 24.3) CH=N	11.3, 10.3, 2.0 (12:50:13)
3f	3260, 3140, 1670, 1575, 1200, 1047, 975, 802, 750	1.26, 1.27 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.1$) 2CH ₃ ; 3.98, 4.01 (2qt, 4H, $J = 7.1$) 2CH ₂ O; 4.36–4.66 (m, 2H) CH ₂ Ph; 7.29 (s, 5H) C ₆ H ₅ ; 8.07 (d, $J = 25.0$), 8.17 (bd, 1H, $J = 21.6$) CH=N	11.6, 10.0 (69:31)
3g	3000, 2945, 1644, 1630, 1205, 1065, 980	1.32, 1.33 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 3.00, 3.07 (2s, 6H) 2CH ₃ N; 4.06, 4.09 (2qt, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ O; 8.02 (d, 1H, $J = 20.7$) CH=N	13.9, 13.0 (19:81)
3h	3000, 2950, 1640, 1630, 1245, 1050, 980	1.15 (t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.31, 1.32 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.1$) 2CH ₃ ; 3.40, 3.48 (2q, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ N; 4.06 (qt, 4H, $J = 7.1$) 2CH ₂ O; 8.03 (d, 1H, $J = 21.2$) CH=N	11.8, 10.0 (25:75)
3i	2990, 2956, 1640, 1620, 1250, 1075, 1050, 970	0.90 (t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.31, 1.32 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₃ ; 1.60 (sx, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ ; 3.22, 3.38 (2t, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ N; 4.05 (qt, 4H, $J = 7.2$) 2CH ₂ O; 8.05 (d, 1H, $J = 21.2$) CH=N	11.7, 10.0 (21:79)
3j	2980, 2940, 1622, 1604, 1222, 1048, 1030, 980	1.22, 1.30 (2d, 12H, $J = 6.9$) 4CH ₃ ; 1.31, 1.32 (2t, 6H, $J = 7.1$) 2CH ₃ ; 3.64, 4.64 (2sp, 2H, $J = 6.9$) 2CH; 4.05, 4.10 (2qt, 4H, $J = 7.1$) 2CH ₂ O; 8.13 (d, 1H, $J = 21.9$) CH=N	11.5, 10.0 (34:66)

TABLE II (continued)

Compound	IR(film) ^a ν(cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃ /TMS) ^b δ (ppm)/J(Hz)	³¹ P NMR δ(ppm)(Hz)
1k	2970, 2900, 1665, 1620, 1600, 1220, 1060, 1036, 974, 880	1.31, 1.32 (2t, 6H, <i>J</i> = 7.2) 2CH ₃ ; 1.83–2.15 (m, 4H) CH ₂ CH ₂ ; 3.31 3.70 (m, 4H) 2CH ₂ N; 4.06, 4.09 (2qt, 4H, <i>J</i> = 7.2) 2CH ₂ O; 8.22 (d, 1H, <i>J</i> = 21.3) CH=N	11.8, 1 (24:6)
1l	3015, 2960, 1650, 1630, 1250, 1080, 1050, 970, 840, 768	1.33, 1.36 (2t, 6H, <i>J</i> = 7.1) 2CH ₃ ; 4.09, 4.18 (2qt, 4H, <i>J</i> = 7.1) 2CH ₂ O; 6.90–7.60 (m, 3H) CH=NCH=CH; 8.23 (bd, 1H, <i>J</i> = 15.0) CH=N	8.5, 8 (53:4)

Recorded on a Specord M80 Spectrometer.
Measured at 80 MHz with a TESLA BS 587A spectrometer. Abbreviations used: s-singlet, d-dublet, t-triplet, q-quartet, qt-quintet, m-multiplet, b-broad.
Measured at 24.3 MHz with a Jeol INM-FX60 spectrometer.
Ratio of geometrical isomers is given in brackets.

mine, the appropriate formamidine **3g** was obtained by treatment of **1** with an excess of dimethylamine in benzene at room temperature for 4 days.

As proven by ^1H and ^{31}P NMR spectroscopy, crude formamidines **3** are practically pure and sufficiently stable to be distilled in vacuo. Some of them, (i.e. **3e**), however, decompose partially during distillation and cannot be obtained in analytically pure state. Distilled samples are colorless or pale-yellow oils of an amine odour. Yields and physical constants of *N*-diethoxyphosphorylformamidines **3** are compiled in Table I. Their spectroscopic data (Table II) are consistent with the anticipated structures. All specimens of **3** are mixtures of both geometrical isomers and exhibit two independent signals in their ^{31}P NMR spectra. Owing to accessibility of various *N*-phosphorylated imidates,¹⁸ the reported approach offers a general, operationally simple method for preparing a wide spectrum of *N*-phosphorylated amidines.

EXPERIMENTAL

Ethyl [*N*-(diethoxyphosphoryl)]formimide **1** was prepared, according to the previously described procedure,¹⁶ from diethyl phosphoramidate and a slight excess of ethyl orthoformate.

N-Diethoxyphosphorylformamidines **3a–f**; *Method B*. To a solution of ethyl[*N*-(diethoxyphosphoryl)]-formimide (**1**; 4.2 g, 0.02 mol) in benzene (20 ml) is added dropwise a solution of corresponding amine (**2a–f**; 0.02 mol) in 8 ml of benzene. The mixture is refluxed for 4–8 h, (Table I) and then evaporated under reduced pressure. The oily residue is distilled in vacuo. Yields and physical data are given in Table I.

Method A: A mixture of ethyl[*N*-(diethoxyphosphoryl)]formimide (**1**; 4.2 g, 0.02 mol) and the appropriate amine (**2h–l**; 0.08 mol) in 30 ml of benzene is refluxed for 4 h. The excess of amine and the solvent are then evaporated under reduced pressure. The oily residue is distilled in vacuo. Physical data are given in Table I.

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