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A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT SYNTHESIS OF 2-PHOSPHONOMETHYL PYRIDINES

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A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT SYNTHESIS OF 2-PHOSPHONOMETHYL PYRIDINES

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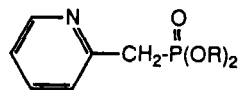
The Michaelis-Becker-Nylen reaction is well suited for the synthesis of 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines. We have improved this four steps method in a one pot reaction using commercial reagents. By this general procedure we have prepared seven new 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines (**Ia–g**) under mild conditions with higher yields.

Key words: 2-phosphono pyridines; 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines; Michaelis-Becker-Nylen reaction; new phosphonates; potential ligands.

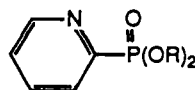
INTRODUCTION

The successful application of phosphonate containing compounds in biological field leaves no doubt about the scientific and industrial importance of these species. Thus they have medicinal value as antivirals,¹ antibiotics² and exhibit also herbicidal and insecticidal activities.³

In connection with our interest in synthesizing biologically active compounds containing phosphonate groups, we are investigating phosphonates bearing a pyridinic group such as compounds (**I**) and (**II**) with formula:



(I)



(II)

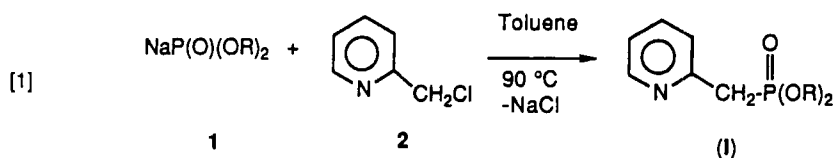
These derivatives can be considered as potential new ligands containing two different metal binding sites: pyridine nitrogen and phosphoryl (P=O) group. In this way we have used the C₅H₄NP(O)(OEt)₂ as ligands in the complexation with K₂RuCl₅.⁴

†To whom correspondence should be addressed.

This 2-phosphono pyridine (II) is obtained by an aromatic nucleophilic substitution (SRN¹ reaction) between the sodium anion of diethylphosphite and iodo-pyridine.⁵ But this reaction is ineffective for the preparation of 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines and this paper describes synthetic routes for seven new 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines (Ia–g) from commercial reagents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

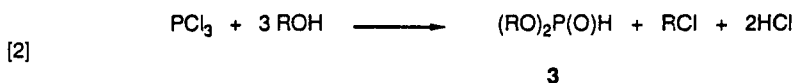
The most appropriate procedure for the preparation of 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines (I) is the Michaelis-Becker-Nylen method⁶ using as reagents the phosphonate anion 1 and the 2 chloromethyl pyridine 2 (Scheme [1]):



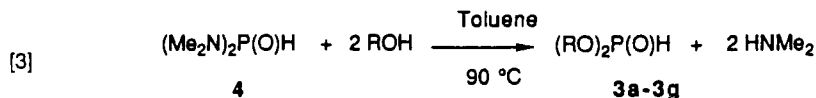
We have investigated two methods for the preparation of phosphonates (I): the first is a multisteps procedure and the second is a one pot synthesis.

1. Multisteps synthesis

This method necessitates the preliminary synthesis of the starting materials 1 and 2. The phosphonate anions 1 are obtained in situ by reaction of sodium hydride with phosphonates 3 (RO)₂P(O)H. The main types of synthesis of 3 are published in the literature⁷; it's generally an esterification of phosphorus trichloride [2]:



We now describe an easy and efficient synthesis of the compounds 3: it involves the alcoholysis of the bis(dimethylamino) phosphonate 4:



This method [3] is applicable to different hydroxy compounds: alcohols, phenols, diols and aminoalcohols. The course of the reaction is monitored by titration of the dimethylamine which is eliminated from the mixture by an argon stream. This procedure is an interesting way to obtain this class of compounds with good yields (85%). We have summarized the properties of six phosphonates 3a–g in Table I.

This reaction can be explained by an equilibrium between the phosphonate 4 and its tautomeric form the phosphite 4' which is more reactive than 4.

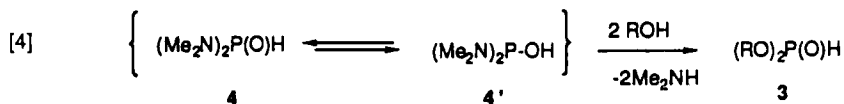



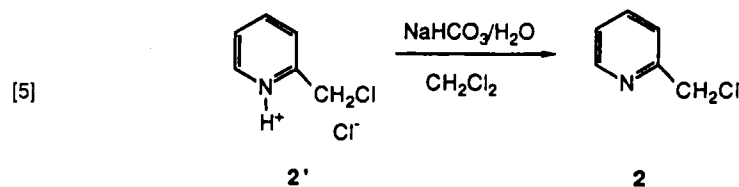


TABLE I

Conditions of reactions [3] and [1] concerning the synthesis of phosphonates **3a–g** and 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines **1a–g**. a. Two diastereoisomers have been obtained.

Nu	Time(h) reaction [3]	Yield %	(RO) ₂ P(O)H	$\delta^{31}\text{P}$ (JPH)	Time(h) reaction [1]	Yield %	(RO) ₂ P(O)-CH ₂ - 	$\delta^{31}\text{P}$	(² J _{PH}) / Hz
C ₂ H ₅ OH			3a	6.0 (683)	8	82	1a	25.0	(22)
C ₈ H ₁₇ OH	2	96	3b	6.3 (681)	16	78	1b	24.1	(21.9)
C ₁₂ H ₂₅ OH	2	98	3c	6.5 (686)	24	85	1c	24.0	(22)
pMeC ₆ H ₄ OH	4	95	3d	0.1 (727)	18	80	1d	18.3	(22.3)
	8	86	3e	11.8 (730)	18	61	1e	33.6	(21.5)
	1.5	96	3f	13.8 (700)	16	63	1f	35.1	(21.4)
C ₆ H ₅ CH(OH) ^(a)				14.7 (650)				34.7	(21.6)
CH ₃ CH(NHCH ₃)CH ₃	6	88	3g	55% 8.0 (640) 45%	16	72	1g	55% 36.8 45%	(20.9)
+ Ephedrine									

Furthermore the 2 chloromethyl pyridine **2** is unstable and prior to its use, one has to liberate the free base **2** from its commercial salt **2'** according to [5].



The 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines (**1a–g**) (Table II) are synthesized according to Scheme [1]. The 2 chloromethyl pyridine is immediately added to the phosphonate anion in a toluene solution at 90°C. After hydrolysis of the medium, extraction by ether and drying with MgSO₄, the solution is filtered and the solvent removed in vacuo. The ³¹P NMR spectrum of the solution shows a unique signal at about 18 < δ < 37 ppm. No other signal except those of 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines is present in the ³¹P NMR spectra during the process. The structures of the compounds are determined from their ¹H, ¹³C and NMR data (Table II) and elemental analysis.


2. One pot synthesis

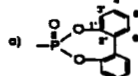
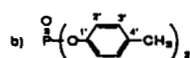
The multistep process in Scheme [1] involves four steps and our aim was to find a “one step” high yield method to avoid the preparation of the transient products. The Scheme [6] illustrates our process in the particular case of **1d**.

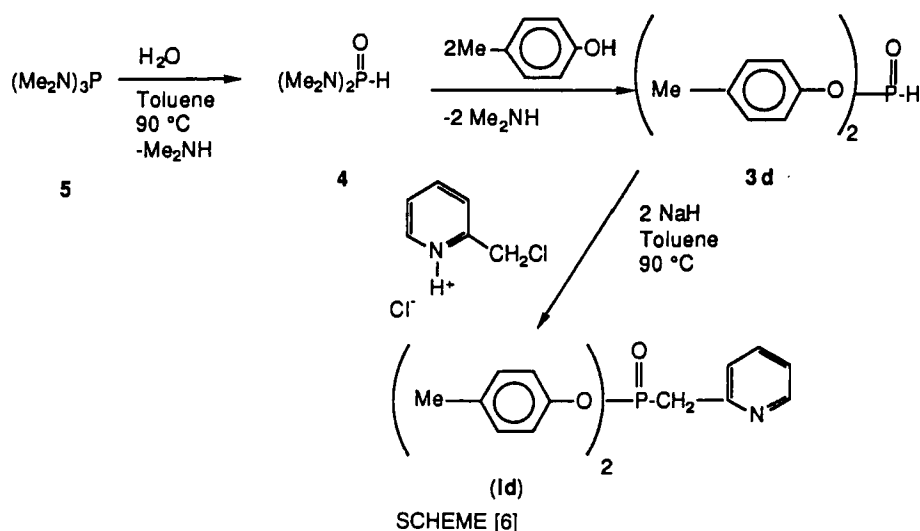
1d is obtained from four commercial products: tris-dimethylaminophosphine, p-cresol, sodium hydride and 2-chloromethyl pyridine hydrochloride. In the mixture we have observed only the entities **4** and **1d** by ³¹P NMR.

TABLE II
 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of the compounds Ia-g.

Products	Molecular Formula	I.R. $\nu(\text{P=O}) \text{ cm}^{-1}$	^1H NMR $\delta, \text{J(Hz)}$	^{13}C NMR a) $\delta, \text{J(Hz)}$
Ia	$\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3\text{P}$ (229)	1252	1.3 (t, 6H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 1.3$, CH_2CH_3) 4.15 (dq, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.15$, O-CH_2) 3.5 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 21.95$, P-CH_2) 8.55 (Hg), $7.2 < \delta \text{H}_3, \text{H}_4, \text{H}_5 < 7.9$	16.2 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 6$, $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_3$) 37.5 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 135.2$, P-CH_2) 62 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.7$, O-CH_2) * (voir légende table)
Ib	$\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{40}\text{NO}_3\text{P}$ (397)	1245	0.84 (t, 6H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6$, CH_3) 1.15 (m, 24H, CH_2) 3.39 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 21.9$, P-CH_2) 3.95 (dq, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 7.5$, O-CH_2) 8.4 (Hg), $6.7 < \delta \text{H}_3, \text{H}_4, \text{H}_5 < 7.3$	14.1 (s, CH_3) 29.6 (s, CH_2) 36.8 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 135.8$, P-CH_2) 65.8 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.7$, O-CH_2)
Ic	$\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{72}\text{NO}_3\text{P}$ (621)	1243	0.85 (t, 6H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6$, CH_3) 1.23 (m, 56 H, CH_2) 3.38 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 21.96$, P-CH_2) 3.95 (dq, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 7.4$, O-CH_2) 8.5 (Hg), $7.3 < \delta \text{H}_3, \text{H}_4, \text{H}_5 < 7.7$	14.0 (s, CH_3) 29.3 (s, CH_2) 36.5 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 135.8$, P-CH_2) 66.2 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 6.7$, O-CH_2)
Id	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3\text{P}$ (353)	1250	2.3 (s, 3H, CH_3) b) 3.65 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 22.3$, P-CH_2) 6.9 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$, H_3) 7.1 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$, H_2) 8.6 (Hg), $7.1 < \delta \text{H}_3, \text{H}_4, \text{H}_5 < 7.8$	20.6 (s, CH_3) b) 34.2 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 132$, P-CH_2) 120.9 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 5.2$, C_2) 130.7 (d, $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 1.3$, C_3) 135.1 (d, $^5J_{\text{CP}} = 1.7$, C_4) 148.6 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 8.7$, C_1)
Ie	$\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3\text{P}$ (323)	1259	c) 3.62 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 21.5$, P-CH_2) 8.5 (Hg) $7.0 < \delta \text{H}_3, \text{H}_4, \text{H}_5, \text{H}_1', \text{H}_2' < 7.8$	c) 34.7 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 131.4$, P-CH_2) 122.2 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 3.8$, C_2) 126.7 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 1.6$, C_3) 129.2 (d, $^5J_{\text{CP}} = 1.6$, C_5) 130.4 (d, $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 0$, C_4) 148.2 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 10.3$, C_1)
If	$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3\text{P}$ (255)	1267	0.87 (s, 6H, CH_3) 1.12 (s, 6H, CH_3) 3.48 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 21.4$, P-CH_2) 8.35 (Hg), $6.5 < \delta \text{H}_3, \text{H}_4, \text{H}_5 < 7.5$	23.8 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 5.44$, CH_3) 24.7 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 2.82$, CH_3) 38.1 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 128.3$, P-CH_2) 88.4 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 0$, O-C)
Ig	$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{P}$ (302)	1252	0.04 (d, 3H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$, C-CH_3) 0.44 (d, 3H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.55$, C-CH_3) 2.52 (d, 3H, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 8.85$, N-CH_3) 2.41 (d, 3H, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 9.1$, N-CH_3) 2.9 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.9$, N-CH) 2.7 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$, N-CH) 3.59 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 21$, P-CH_2) 3.57 (d, 2H, $^2J_{\text{HP}} = 9.1$, P-CH_2) 5.5 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.9$, O-CH) 4.8 (dd, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 6.8$, O-CH) 8.4 (Hg), $6.6 < \delta \text{Ar} < 7.3$	14.5 (s, C-CH_3) 13.2 (s, C-CH_3) 29.7 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 4.7$, N-CH_3) 28.4 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 4.3$, N-CH_3) 36.6 (d, $^1J_{\text{CP}} = 120$, P-CH_2) 37.6 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 116$, P-CH_2) 60.8 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 8.7$, N-CH) 58.1 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 9.4$, N-CH) 82.2 (s, O-CH) 80.0 (s, O-CH)

a) ^{13}C NMR for  121.7 (d, $^5J_{\text{CP}} = 3.2$, C_5); 124.2 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 4.8$, C_3); 136.3 (d, $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.8$, C_4)
 146.3 (d, $^4J_{\text{CP}} = 2.4$, C_6); 182.7 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 6.3$, C_2)





In this procedure, the major difficulty is the use of the hydrochloride form of the 2-chloromethyl pyridine. This problem is resolved by the addition of two equivalents of sodium hydride in the last step; thus we liberate the free base simultaneously with the formation of the phosphonyl anion. This reaction is very exothermic and the reactants must be added to 0°C. After hydrolysis of the mixture and extraction with diethyl ether, the solution is filtered and the solvent evaporated. We obtained the 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines **Id** with a 60% yield.

After distillation, the phosphonate **Id** exhibits the same spectroscopic parameters as a sample obtained by the multisteps method. We have also used this one pot synthesis for the preparation of four other phosphonates (**Ic**, **Ie**, **If**, **Ig**).

In conclusion, we have been able to accomplish the synthesis of new 2-phosphonomethyl pyridines. Our one pot method has two advantages: the reaction proceeds under mild conditions and we obtain good yields. The reactivity of these new compounds deserves further investigations.

EXPERIMENTAL

All manipulations were carried out under dry argon using standard Schlenk tube techniques. The solvents were degassed and distilled before used. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were obtained on multinuclear Bruker AC 80 and AC 200 spectrometers operating in the Fourier transform mode at 80 (¹H), 32.44 (³¹P) and 20.15 (¹³C) MHz for AC 80 and at 81.015 (³¹P), 50.323 (¹³C) MHz for AC 200. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm downfield from internal TMS for ¹H and ¹³C or external 85% H₃PO₄ for ³¹P. Coupling constants are in Hertz. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 783 spectrophotometer. Microanalysis were satisfying and performed in the "Service de Microanalyses" ENSCT, Toulouse.

2-Chloromethyl pyridine 2. 2-Chloromethyl pyridine hydrochloride (12 g) was dissolved in 100 ml of dichloromethane and placed in a flask. NaHCO₃ (8 g) in 30 ml of water was added dropwise with vigorous stirring. After decantation, the water solution was extracted with methylene chloride (2 × 50 ml). The organic layer was dried on MgSO₄ and then filtered. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum. We obtained 7.9 g of 2-chloromethyl pyridine **2** (yield: 85%).

Synthesis of phosphonates I. General procedure. The preparation was identical for the seven phosphonates **Ia–g**. We describe the synthesis of **Ib**. 0.96 g (0.04 mol) of sodium hydride dispersed in 30 ml of toluene, were added dropwise to 12.25 g (0.04 mol) of phosphite, the reaction mixture was stirred

during 30 min and then 5.1 g (0.04 mol) of 2-chloromethyl pyridine were introduced. The mixture was refluxed for 16 h.

After evaporation of the solvent, 50 ml of ether were introduced and the solution was hydrolysed by 20 ml of water, the water layer was extracted with ether (3 × 30 ml) and the organic layer was dried on MgSO₄. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum (15 mm Hg). We obtained 2.4 g of **1b** (yield 78%).

Typical one pot synthesis of phosphonate 1–(1d). We added 0.27 g (0.015 mol) of water to a 30 ml toluene solution of 2.6 g (0.046 mol) of tris dimethylamino phosphine and this mixture was refluxed during 90 min; we followed the evolution of dimethylamine under an argon stream. The phosphonate **4** was not isolated and two equivalents of para cresol, 3.24 g (0.03 mol) was introduced to obtain with good yield the phosphonate **3d**.

Then the sodium hydride 0.73 g (0.03 mol) was added very slowly to the solution and afterwards 2-chloromethyl pyridine hydrochloride, 2.46 g (0.015 mol) was introduced during 10 min. This step was very exothermic. The suspension was stirred for 30 min at room temperature and heated at 100°C for 18 hours. After evaporation of the solvent, diethyl ether (50 ml) was added and the reaction mixture was poured into water (20 ml); the water layer was extracted three times with ether (50 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the residue was distilled under vacuum: bp = 142°C (5.10⁻³ mm Hg). The yield of this reaction is 60% (the starting material being the tris dimethylaminophosphine).

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