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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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### Preparation of 5-Halo-2,2'-Bipyridyls

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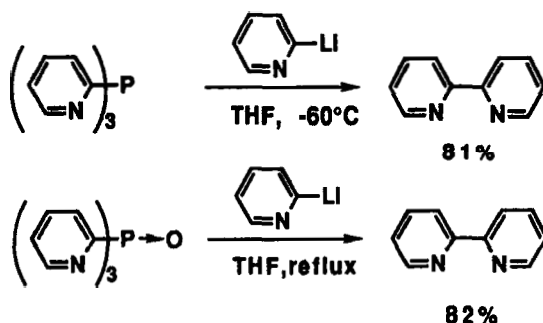
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## PREPARATION OF 5-HALO-2,2'-BIPYRIDYLS

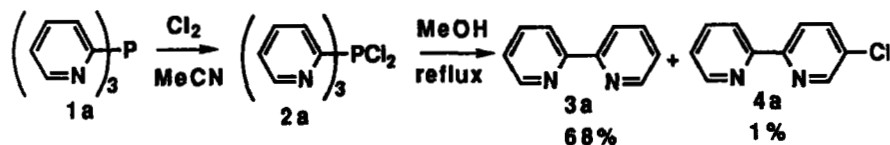
Yuzuru Uchida, Ryuji Kajita, and Yoshikane Kawasaki, Department of Applied Chemistry, Osaka Institute of Technology, Osaka 535

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Earlier, we have shown that treatment of tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine<sup>1)</sup> or tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine oxide<sup>2)</sup> with 2-pyridyllithium resulted in the formation of ligand coupling products, namely 2,2'-bipyridyl, as shown below.



Treatment of tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine (**1a**) with gaseous chlorine in acetonitrile afforded tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine dichloride (**2a**) which reacted further with refluxing methanol gave not only the ligand coupling product (**3a**) but also a small quantity of 5-chloro-2,2'-bipyridyl (**4a**) as shown below.



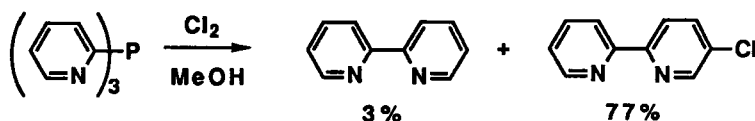
When the reaction was carried out in acetonitrile in the presence of a small amount of methanol, the yield of **4a** increased to 42%. This is intriguing and hence we started look into the reaction. The effect of protic solvent was first thought to be responsible. Thus, the various alcohols were tested (see TABLE 1).

TABLE 1 Products formed with small amount of water or alcohols

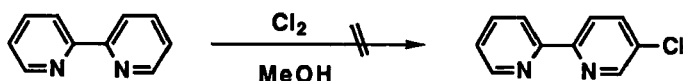
Alcohol	ROH /1a	Reaction time	Product Yield (%) <sup>a)</sup>	
			3a	4a
MeOH	3	16 h	40	42
EtOH	3	5 days	5	46
t-BuOH	3	4 h	6	25
	10	4 h	2	34
H <sub>2</sub> O	10	4 h	3	76

a) Determined by GLC

Treatment of tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine with chlorine in methanol afforded the chlorinated 2,2'-bipyridyl as a major coupling product.

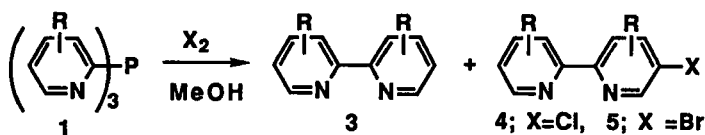


Of course, chlorination did not proceed by treating 2,2'-bipyridyl with chlorine in methanol under the same conditions.

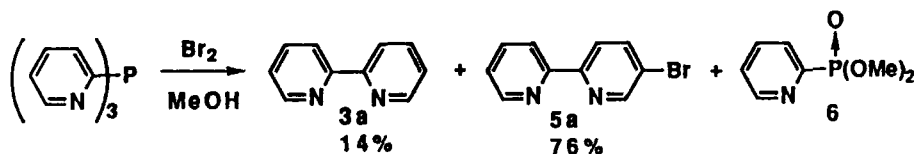


The reaction would proceed the path A and B (see Scheme 1).

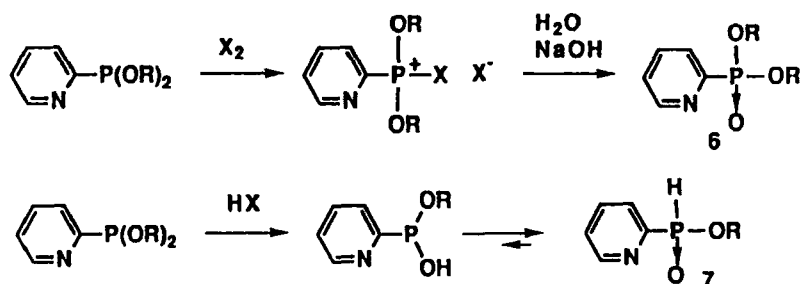
Likewise, the additions of bromine into the methanol solution of tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine at room temperature gave 5-bromo-2,2'-bipyridyl (5a) along with 2,2'-bipyridyl, a normal coupling product. Phosphines, bearing methyl-substituted pyridines reacted similarly. The results in the following reaction are summarized in TABLE 2.



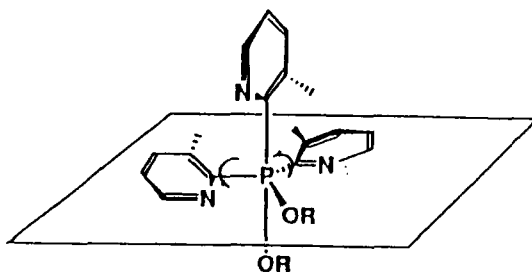
In the reaction between tris(2-pyridyl)phosphine and bromine in methanol we found the formation of dimethyl 2-pyridylphosphonate (6) in the following manner.



The formation of 6 and 7 could be suggested in the following reactions.



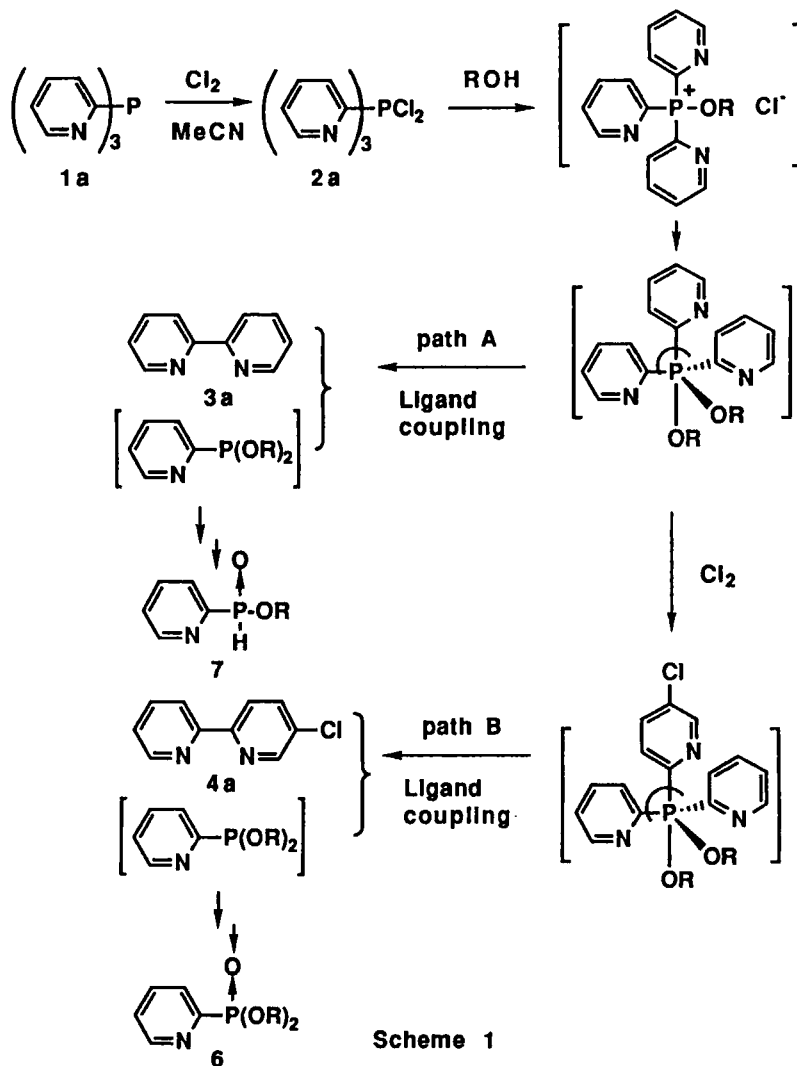
The reason why tris[2-(3-methylpyridyl)]phosphine (1b) gave rather a poor yield of the coupling product is probably due to the steric hindrance of 3 methyl groups to form the hypervalent species shown below.



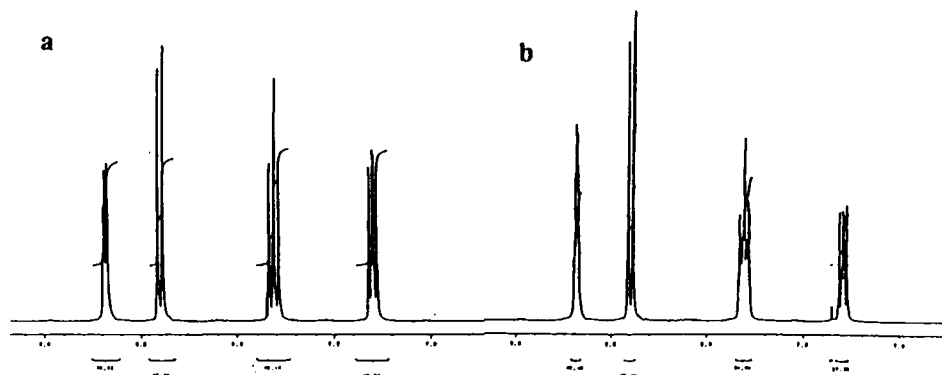
The reactions of other electrophile are also quite interesting. The following NMR spectra would indicate the presence of D in the NMR charts shown below.

TABLE 2 Reaction of phosphines (1) with chlorine or bromine in methanol

R	X	Product Yield (%) <sup>a)</sup>						
1a	H	Cl	3a	3	5 <sup>b)</sup>	4a	77	58 <sup>b)</sup>
1b	3-Me	Cl	3b	2		4b	11	
1c	4-Me	Cl	3c	6		4c	63	
1d	6-Me	Cl	3d	22	12 <sup>b)</sup>	4d	73	58 <sup>b)</sup>
1e	6-Ph	Cl	3e	-	19 <sup>b)</sup>	4e	-	3 <sup>b)</sup>
1f	6-Br	Cl	3f	-	0 <sup>b)</sup>	4f	-	0 <sup>b)</sup>
1a	H	Br <sup>c)</sup>	3a	14		5a	76	
1c	4-Me	Br <sup>c)</sup>	3c	36		5c	48	
1d	6-Me	Br <sup>c)</sup>	3d	22		5d	69	

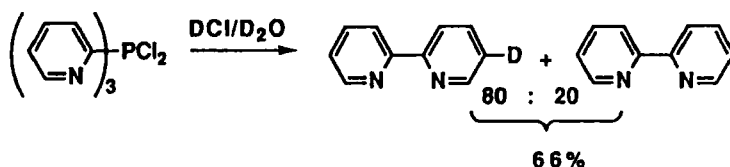
a) Determined by GLC. b) Isolated yield. c) Phosphine : Br<sub>2</sub> = 1 : 3

Scheme 1

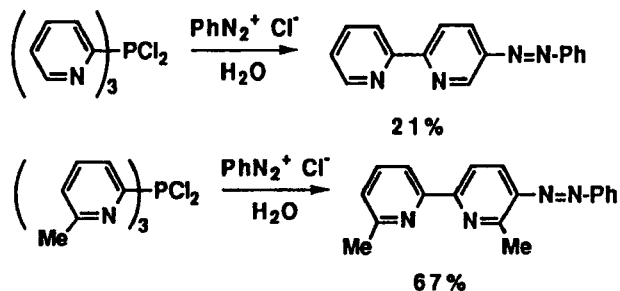


NMR spectra of (a) 2,2'-bipyridyl and (b) a mixture of 5-deuterio-2,2'-bipyridyl and 2,2-bipyridyl (80 : 20)

Unfortunately, the separation of the deuterated and the undeuterated 2,2-bipyridyl could not be achieved, however, the ratio was estimated as shown below.



Another example of electrophilic substitution is the diazocoupling reaction. Two such examples are shown below.



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- 2) Y. Uchida, H. Kozawa, and S. Oae, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **30**, 1989, 6365; Y. Uchida, K. Onoue, N. Tada, F. Nagao, H. Kozawa, and S. Oae, *Heteroatom Chem.*, **1**, 1990, 295.