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SYNTHESIS AND PROPERTIES OF 2-AMINO-2-ARYLETHYLPHOSPHONIC ACIDS AND DERIVATIVES

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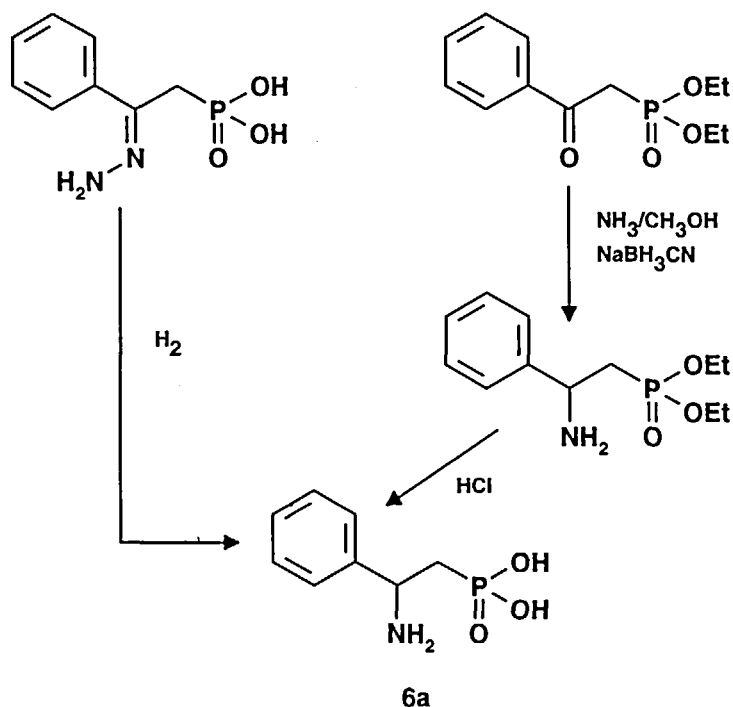
ABSTRACT 2-Amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids, **6a** to **6g** have been prepared from the corresponding 2-acetoxyimino- or 2-methoxyimino-2-arylethylphosphonates, **3** or **4**, by hydrogenation using Raney-Ni as a catalyst, followed by hydrolysis with HCl. **3** and **4** were obtained from the corresponding aryl-bromomethyl-ketoxime-O-acetates, **1**, or aryl-bromomethyl-O-methylketoximes, **2**, by an Arbuzov reaction with triethylphosphite. Several of the 2-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids **6** show activity against *Botrytis cinerea* and *Cercospora*. Among the more active compounds were **6a**, **6b**, **6g** and **6k**, whereby **6b** and **6k** gave full protection against *Botrytis cinerea* (on apple) down to 60 ppm. The same compounds show also a weak inhibition of anthocyanin synthesis *in vivo*.¹

Key words: 2-Amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids; 2-amino-2-arylethylphosphonates; 2-acetoxyimino-2-arylethylphosphonates; 2-methoxyimino-2-arylethylphosphonates; Reduction of oximes; biological activity.

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago we reported on the synthesis and properties of 1-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids.² It was shown that several compounds of this type are strong inhibitors of PAL and anthocyanin synthesis and are also quite active botryticides. It seemed of interest to prepare the 2-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids and compare their biological activity with that of the 1-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids.

In the literature are already described some of these compounds. Thus Mastalerz et al.³ obtained the unsubstituted 2-amino-2-phenylethylphosphonic acid, **6a**, by reduction of the hydrazon, and Varlet et al.⁴ synthesized several compounds of this type by reductive amination of the corresponding keto-compounds (Scheme I)

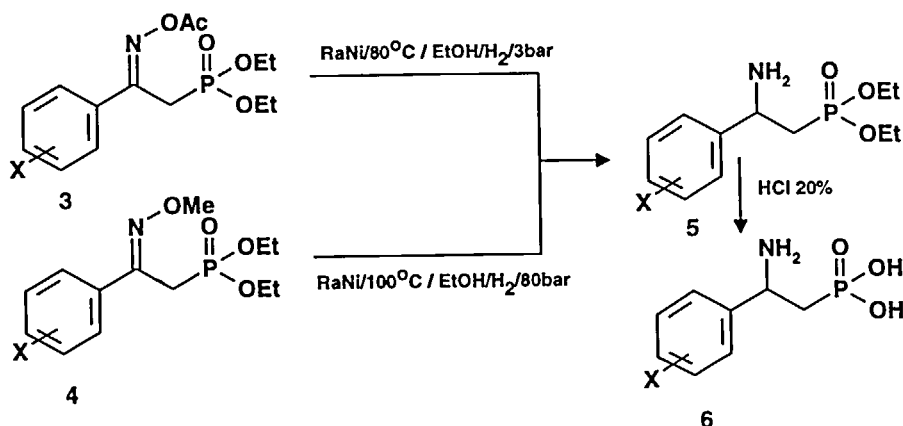


Scheme I

Both methods need β -ketophosphonates as starting materials which are not so readily available. In the following we describe a new preparative procedure and also report on the biological activity of this type of compounds.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To avoid the use of β -ketophosphonates we started with oxime acetates 1 or oxime ethers 2 of aryl-bromomethylketones which can be easily prepared. Treatment of these with triethylphosphite yields the 2-aryl-2-acetoxyminoethylphosphonates 3⁵ and 2-aryl-2-methoxyminoethylphosphonates 4 in high yield (Scheme II).



Scheme II

Reduction of 3 with hydrogen in ethanol at 80°C and 3 bars and of 4 at 100°C and 80 bars in the presence of Raney-Ni as catalyst produced 5 in reasonable to good yields. It was observed that

in general the reduction of 4 gave higher yields of 5 than that of 3, e.g., reduction of 4k (X=CH₃) yielded 5k in 79.6% yield, whereas reduction of 3k (X=CH₃) gave 5k in only 51.5% yield. 4n (3,4-Cl₂) and 4o (X=2,4-Cl₂) were reduced to 5n and 5o, respectively, with zinc in formic acid⁶, in order to avoid dehalogenation.

Hydrolysis of 2-amino-2-arylethylphosphonates 5 with 20% HCl under reflux afforded 2-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids, 6, (Scheme II) in good yields. Since the difluoromethoxysubstituent in 5l was cleaved with HCl, 5l was converted to 6l by dealkylation with trimethylbromosilane followed by hydrolysis with methanol.

BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

Like 1-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids² several of the 2-amino-2-arylethylphosphonic acids 6, described in this paper, also show activity against *Botrytis cinerea* (on apple and cercospora (on peanuts)). Among the more active compounds were 6a, 6b, 6g and 6k, whereby some of the compounds (6b and 6k) gave full protection against *Botrytis cinerea* down to 60 ppm. In addition, the same compounds show a weak inhibition of anthocyanin synthesis in vivo (3.4% by 1 mM).

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