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Manganese Dioxide is an Efficient Catalyst for the Stereoselective Conversion of Dialkyl 2-(Imido-*N*-yl)-3-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)butanedioates to Electron-Poor (*Z*)-*N*-vinylimides in Solvent-Free Conditions

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**MANGANESE DIOXIDE IS AN EFFICIENT CATALYST
FOR THE STEREOSELECTIVE CONVERSION
OF DIALKYL 2-(IMIDO-N-YL)-3-
(TRIPHENYLPHOSPHORANYLIDENE)-
BUTANEDIOATES TO ELECTRON-POOR
(Z)-N-VINYLMIDES IN SOLVENT-FREE
CONDITIONS**

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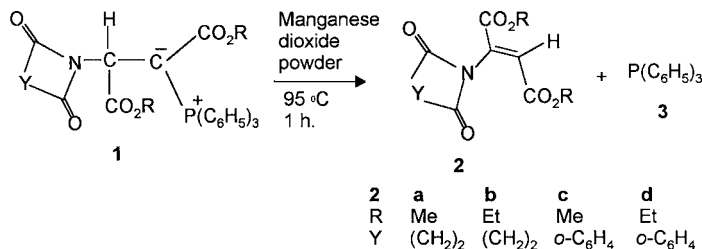
Manganese dioxide was found to catalyze stereoselective conversion of dialkyl 2-(imido-N-yl)-3-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)butanedioates to electron-poor (Z)-N-vinylimides in solvent-free conditions at 95°C in high conversions.

Keywords: Catalyst; manganese dioxide; phosphorus ylide; solvent-free conditions; (Z)-N-vinylimide

Organophosphorus compounds have been used extensively in organic synthesis as useful reagents as well as ligands of a number of transition metal catalysts.¹ β -Additions of nucleophiles to the vinyl group of vinylic phosphonium salts leading to the formation of new alkylidenephosphoranes has attracted much attention as a very convenient and synthetically useful method in organic synthesis.^{1–11} In the past we have established a convenient, one-pot method for preparing stabilized phosphorus ylides utilizing in situ generation of the phosphonium salts.^{1–11} In this article, we report on the catalytic rule of manganese dioxide powder in the stereoselective conversion of dialkyl 2-(imido-N-yl)-3-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)butanedioates (**1**)¹¹ to electron-poor (Z)-N-vinylimides (**2**)¹⁰ in solvent-free conditions¹³ at 95°C with high conversions (Scheme 1).

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SCHEME 1

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Manganese dioxide powder was found to catalyze stereoselective conversion of ylides **1**¹¹ to electron-poor (*Z*)-*N*-vinylimides (**2**)¹⁰ in solvent-free conditions¹³ at 95°C with high conversions (Scheme 1).^{10–11} TLC indicated that the reaction was completed after 1 h. The reaction proceeds smoothly and cleanly under solvent-free conditions¹⁵ at 95°C (in all cases the reaction works efficiently with high conversions) and no side reactions were observed. In the absence of manganese dioxide powder, this reaction did not afford the corresponding compounds (**2a**) even at reflux temperature (toluene as solvent) after 24 h. TLC indicated that the solution contained unreacted ylide **1a**.¹¹

We also have used Al₂O₃, CuSO₄, ZnSO₄, Na₂SO₄, NaNO₃, Cu(NO₃)₂, Mn(NO₃)₂, and K₂CO₃ powder instead of manganese dioxide in this reaction, but no corresponding product **2** was observed, and in all cases decomposition was observed. The structures of **2a–d** were deduced from their ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra and via x-ray single crystal (for **2c**) structure determination.¹²

In summary, we have found that manganese dioxide powder is able to catalyze stereoselective conversion of ylides **1**¹¹ to compounds **2**¹⁰ in solvent-free conditions. Other aspects of this process are under investigation.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with a BRUKER DRX-500 AVANCE spectrometer at 500 and 125 MHz respectively.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Compounds 2a–d

The powdered mixture of dry manganese dioxide (2 g) and ylide **1**¹¹ (1 mmol) was heated for 1 h at 95°C and then placed over a column of silica gel (12 g). The column chromatography was washed using ethyl acetate–light petroleum ether (1:9) as eluent. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the products (**2a–d**) were obtained. The characterization data of the compounds (**2a–d**) are given in our previous report.¹⁰

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