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MICROWAVE INDUCED SYNTHESIS OF COUMARINS FROM IN SITU GENERATED STABILIZED PHOSPHORUS YLIDES IN THE PRESENCE OF SILICA GEL POWDER IN SOLVENT-FREE CONDITIONS

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Protonation of the highly reactive 1:1 intermediates, produced in the reaction between triphenylphosphine and dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylates, by phenols (1-hydroxynaphthalene, 2-hydroxynaphthalene and 4-bromophenol) leads to vinyltriphenylphosphonium salts, which undergo aromatic electrophilic substitution reaction with conjugate base to produce corresponding stabilized phosphorus ylides. Microwave was found to catalyze conversion of the stabilized phosphorus ylides to corresponding coumarins in the presence of silica gel powder in solvent-free conditions.

Keywords: Coumarin; microwave; phenol; silica gel; solvent-free conditions

Coumarins are very well known natural products and many such compounds exhibited high levels of biological activity.¹ Coumarins also are used as additives to food and cosmetics,² optical brightening agents,³ and dispersed fluorescent and laser dyes.⁴ In addition some coumarins are of much interest because of their toxicity,⁵ carcinogenicity,⁶ and photodynamic effects.⁷ Silica gel as an additive promotes the Wittig reactions of phosphorus ylides with aldehydes, including sterically hindered aldehydes to increase the rate and yields of alkenes.⁸ In the absence of suitable catalysts, Wittig reaction of the stabilized phosphorus ylides are very slow.⁹ Remarkable rate enhancements and dramatic reductions of reaction times in the Wittig reactions were observed⁹ when a mixture of triphenylcarbethoxymethylene phosphorane, an aldehyde

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and silica gel was irradiated in a microwave oven for 5–6 min. In the past we have established a convenient, one-pot method for preparing stabilized phosphorus ylides utilizing in situ generation of the phosphonium salts.^{10–14} Recently we reported on the catalytic role of silica gel powder in the synthesis of coumarins in solvent-free conditions¹⁵ in fairly good yields.¹⁶ The use of microwave irradiation to bring about organic transformations has taken new dimensions in recent years.¹⁷ In this article, we report on the catalytic role of microwave in conversion of in situ generated stabilized phosphorus ylides (**5**) to corresponding coumarins (**6**) in the presence of silica gel powder in solvent-free conditions (Scheme 1).

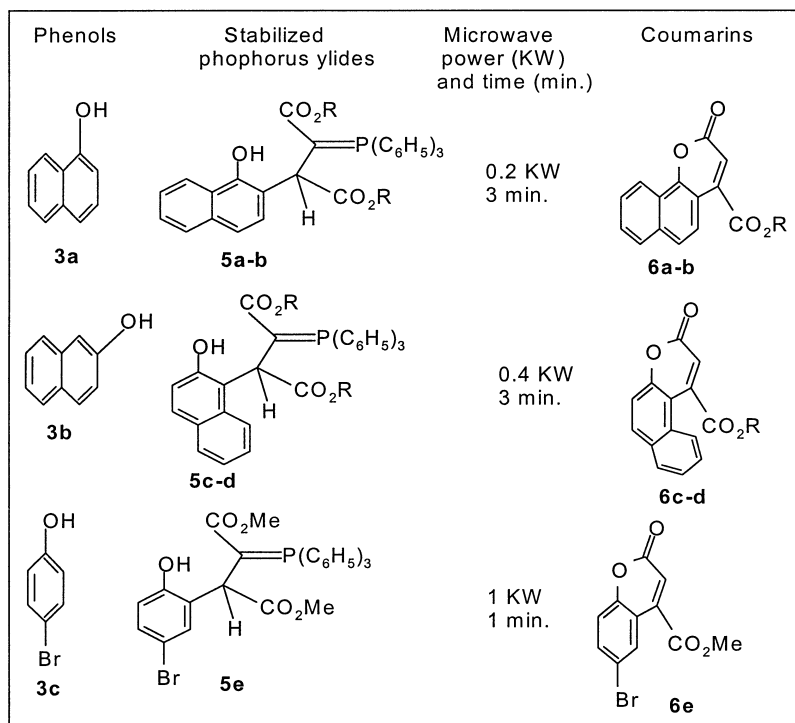
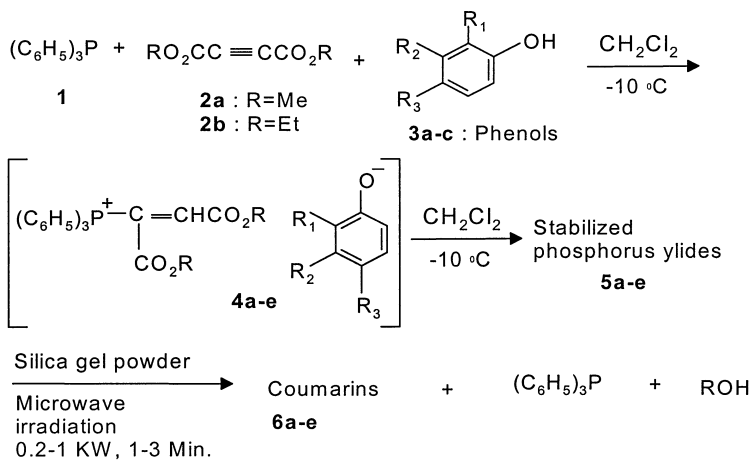
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The stabilized phosphorus ylide (**5**) may result from initial addition of triphenylphosphine **1** to the acetylenic ester **2** and concomitant protonation of the 1:1 adduct, followed by the electrophilic attack of the vinyltriphenylphosphonium cation to the aromatic ring at *ortho* position relative to the strong activating group (Scheme 1). TLC indicated formation of ylides **5** in CH₂Cl₂. Microwave irradiation was found to catalyze conversion of ylides **5** to corresponding coumarins (**6a–e**) in the presence of silica gel powder in solvent-free conditions (Scheme 1). TLC indicated that the reactions were completed in the solid phase (silica gel powder) under microwave irradiation at microwave power 0.2–1 KW after 1–3 min. The structures **6a–e** were deduced from their melting points, IR and ¹H NMR spectra. All of these data are the same as our previous reports data for the compounds **6a–e**.^{16,18,19}

In summary, we have found that microwave irradiation is able to catalyze conversion of in situ generated stabilized phosphorus ylides (**5**) to corresponding coumarins (**6**) in the presence of silica gel powder in solvent-free conditions (Scheme 1). Other aspects of this process are under investigation.

EXPERIMENTAL

Commercial oven butane M245 was used for microwave irradiation. Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus and are uncorrected. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-2100 spectrophotometer. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR-460 spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with a BRUKER



SCHEME 1

DRX-500 AVANCE spectrometer at 500 and 125 MHz respectively. Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan-Matt 8430 mass spectrometer operating at an ionization potential of 70 eV.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Coumarins (6a–e)

To a magnetically stirred solution of triphenylphosphine **1** (0.262 g, 1 mmol) and phenol **3** (1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 ml) was added dropwise a mixture of **2** (1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (3 ml) at –10°C over 15 min. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature. Silica gel powder (2 g) was added and the solvent was evaporated. Dry silica gel and the residue were irradiated in the microwave oven at microwave power 0.2–1 KW (20–100%) for 1–3 min (see Scheme 1) and then placed over a column of silica gel (10 g). The column chromatography was washed using ethyl acetate–light petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and products were obtained as orange crystals (**6a–b**), reddish crystals (**6c–d**) and white crystals (**6e**). The characterization data of the compounds (**6a–e**) are given in our previous reports.^{16,18,19}

Methyl 2-Oxo-2H-benzo[h]chromene-4-carboxylate (6a)

Orange crystals, m.p. 162.2–162.3°C; yield: 84%. UV (EtOH 95%) ($\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$, log ϵ): 376, 3.544; 324, 3.791; 276, 4.166; 226, 4.403. IR (KBr) (ν_{max} , cm^{–1}): 3032, 2951, 1762, 1241. MS(m/z, %): 254 (M⁺, 100), 226(100); 225(100); 194(100); 167(60); 137(100); 89(20).

Ethyl 2-Oxo-2H-benzo[h]chromene-4-carboxylate (6b)

Orange crystals, m.p. 145.2–145.5°C; yield: 82%. UV (EtOH 95%) ($\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$, log ϵ): 356, 3.944; 323, 3.857; 254, 3.986; 230, 4.427. IR (KBr) (ν_{max} , cm^{–1}): 3048, 2967, 1725, 1258. MS(m/z, %): 268 (M⁺, 100), 239(100); 195(100); 167(90); 139(100); 137(50); 89(10).

Methyl 3-Oxo-3H-benzo[f]chromene-1-carboxylate (6c)

Reddish crystals, m.p. 138.2–138.8°C; yield: 56%. UV (EtOH 95%) ($\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$, log ϵ): 368, 3.684; 325, 3.608; 258, 3.734; 227, 4.102. IR (KBr) (ν_{max} , cm^{–1}): 3048, 2983, 1725, 1258. MS(m/z, %): 254 (M⁺, 100), 226(100); 225(70); 194(100); 139(90); 138(100).

Ethyl 3-Oxo-3H-benzo[f]chromene-1-carboxylate (6d)

Reddish crystals, m.p. 135.9–136.4°C; yield: 60%. UV (EtOH 95%) ($\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$, log ϵ): 356, 3.944; 323, 3.857; 254, 3.987; 230, 4.428. IR (KBr)

(ν_{\max} , cm^{-1}): 3032, 2952, 1733, 1258. MS(m/z , %): 268 (M^+ , 100), 266(70); 239(100); 222(40); 212(90); 193(100); 168(80); 140(80); 138(100).

Methyl 6-Bromo-2-oxo-2H-chromene-4-carboxylate (6e)

White crystals, m.p. 115.7–115.9°C; yield: 71.5%. UV (EtOH 95%) (λ_{\max}/nm , $\log \epsilon$): 345, 4.029; 286, 4.363; 223, 4.786; 210, 4.789. IR (KBr) (ν_{\max} , Cm^{-1}): 3032, 2975, 1709, 1241. MS(m/z , %): 284 ($M^+ + 2$, 70), 281 (M^+ , 100), 254 (20), 226(80); 223(95); 192(30); 178(22); 167(17); 148 (10).

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