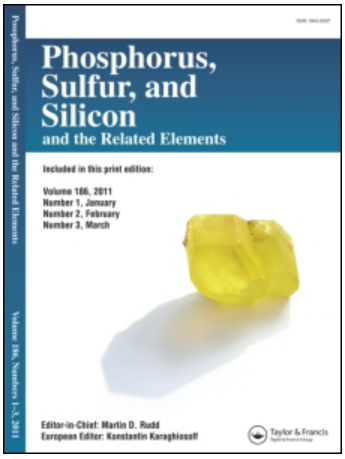

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Ali Ramazani[ab]; Ali Reza Kazemizadeh[b]; Farzin Marandi[b]
[a] Chemistry Department, Zanjan University, Zanjan, Iran [b] Chemistry Department, Zanjan Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran

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Ali Ramazani
Chemistry Department, Zanjan Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran, and Chemistry Department, Zanjan University, Zanjan, Iran

Farzin Marandi
Ali Reza Kazemizadeh
Chemistry Department, Zanjan Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran

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. Manganese(II) sulfate powder was found to catalyze conversion of the stabilized phosphorus ylides to coumarins in solvent-free conditions at 90°C due 1 h in high conversions. Microwave also was found to catalyze the same reactions in the presence of manganese(II) sulfate powder in solvent-free conditions at microwave power 1 KW in 1 min.

Keywords Coumarin; manganese(II) sulfate; microwave; phenol; solvent-free conditions

INTRODUCTION

Coumarins are very well known natural products and many such compounds exhibited high levels of biological activity.[1] Coumarins are also used as additives to food and cosmetics,[2] optical brightening agents,[3] and dispersed flurescent and laser dyes.[4] In addition some coumarins are of much interest as a result of their toxicity,[5] carcinogenity,[6] and photodynamic effects.[7] In the past we have established a convenient, one-pot method for preparing stabilized phosphorus ylides utilizing

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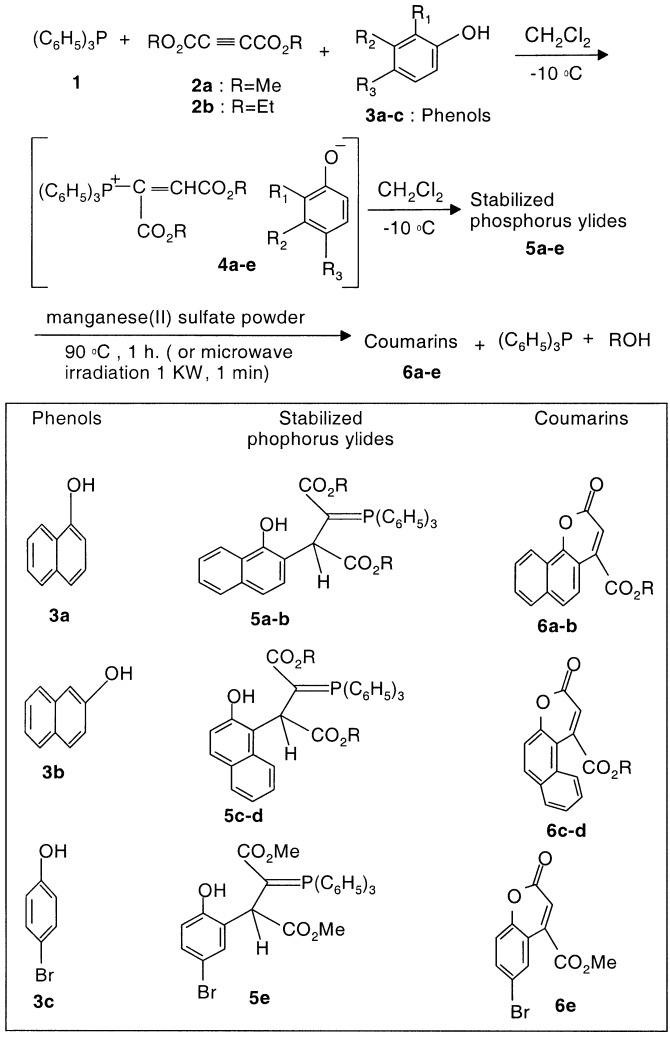
Address correspondence to Ali Ramazani, Chemistry Department, Zanjan Islamic Azad University, P.O. Box 49195-467, Zanjan, Iran. E-mail: a-ramazani@mail.znu.ac.ir

in situ generation of the phosphonium salts.[8–12] Recently we have reported on catalytic rule of silica gel powder in the synthesis of coumarins in solvent-free conditions[13] in fairly good yields.[14] The use of microwave irradiation to bring about organic transformations has taken new dimensions in the recent years.[15] In this article, we report on catalytic rule of manganese(II) sulfate powder in conversion of *in situ* generated stabilized phosphorus ylides (**5**) to corresponding coumarins (**6**) in solvent-free conditions under thermal and microwave conditions (Scheme 1).



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 CH_2Cl_2. Manganese(II) sulfate powder was found to catalyze conversion of the stabilized phosphorus ylides **5** to coumarins (**6a–e**) in solvent-free conditions at 90°C in 1 h in high conversions. Microwave also was found to catalyze the same reactions in the presence of manganese(II) sulfate powder in solvent-free conditions at microwave power 1 KW in 1 min. The structures **6a–e** were deduced from their melting points, IR, and ^{1}H NMR spectra. All of these data are the same as our previous reports data for the compounds **6a–e**.[14,16,17]

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

EXPERIMENTAL

Commerical oven Butane M245 was used for microwave irradiation. Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR-460 spectrometer. ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured with a BRUKER DRX-500 AVANCE spectrometer at 500 and 125 MHz, respectively.

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 CH_2Cl_2(5 mL) was added dropwise a mixture of **2** (1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) at −10°C over 15 min. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature. Manganese(II) sulfate powder (2 g) was added and the solvent was evaporated. Dry manganese(II) sulfate powder and the residue were heated for 1 h at 90°C (or were irradiated in the microwave oven at microwave power 1 KW (100%) for 1 min) 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]

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