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Synthesis of Alkyl 2-(2-Oxo-1,2-dihydronaphtho [2,1-b]thiophen-1-yl)-2-(1,1,1-triphenyl- λ^5 -phosphanylidene)acetates from Triphenylphosphine, Acetylenic Esters, and 2-Naphthalenethiol

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*A one-pot synthesis of alkyl 2-(2-oxo-1,2-dihydronaphtho[2,1-b]thiophen-1-yl)-2-(1,1,1-triphenyl- λ^5 -phosphanylidene)acetates in fairly high yields by the reaction of 2-naphthalenethiol, dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylates and triphenylphosphine is reported. The formulas of these compounds were confirmed by IR, ^1H , ^{31}P , and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy. The NMR spectra indicated that solutions of the phosphorus ylides (CDCl_3 as solvent) contain two rotamers (**E** and **Z**). The relative percentages of rotamers in CDCl_3 for each phosphorus ylide were determined from the ^{31}P NMR spectra.*

Keywords 2-Naphthalenethiol; acetylenic esters; Michael addition; phosphorus ylide; vinyltriphenylphosphonium salt

INTRODUCTION

Phosphorus ylides are important reagents in synthetic organic chemistry,^{1–16} especially in the synthesis of naturally occurring products, compounds with biological and pharmacological activity.⁶ 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.^{18–30} Phosphorus ylides are a class of special type of zwitterions, which bear strongly nucleophilic electron rich carbanions. The electron distribution around the P^+-C^- bond and its consequent chemical implications had been probed

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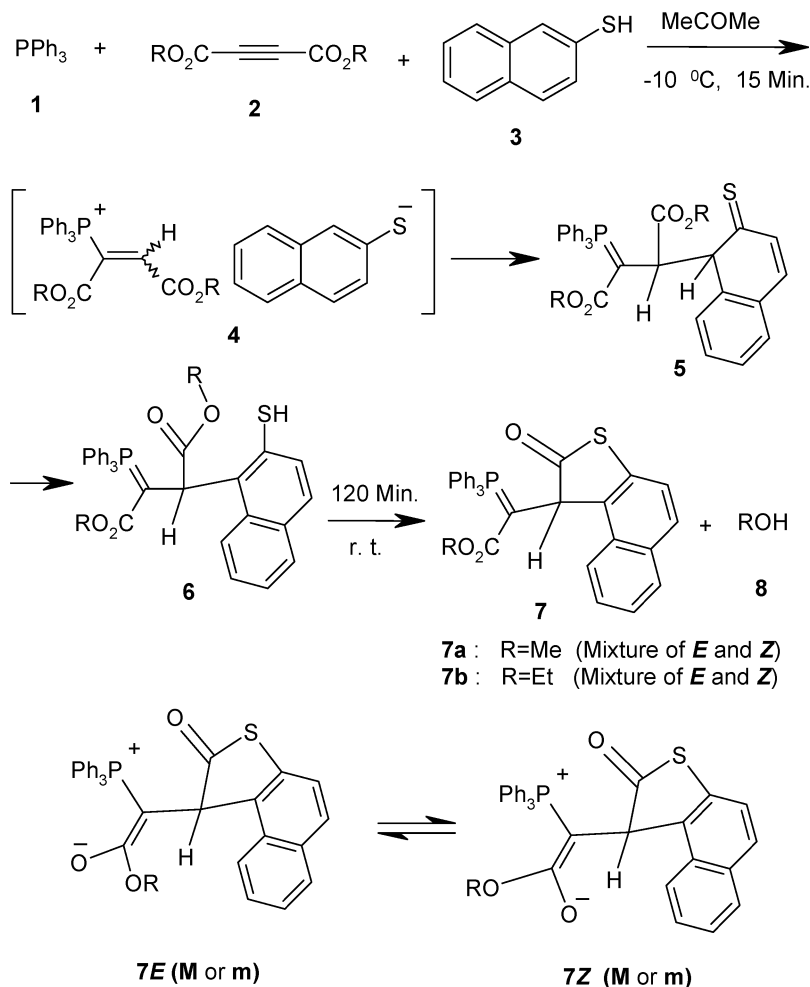
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and assessed through theoretical, spectroscopic and crystallographic investigations.³⁰ Proton affinity of these ylides can be used as a molecular guide to assess their utility as synthetic reagents and their function as ligands in coordination and organometallic chemistry.^{17,30} The nucleophilicity at the ylidic carbon is a factor of essential mechanistic importance in the use of these ylides as Wittig reagents. In the past we have established a convenient, one-pot method for preparing stabilized phosphorus ylides utilizing *in situ* generation of the phosphonium salts.^{18–28} In this paper, we wish to describe a simple method for the preparation of alkyl 2-(2-oxo-1,2-dihydronaphtho[2,1-b]thiophen-1-yl)-2-(1,1,1-triphenyl- λ^5 -phosphanylidene)acetates from three-component reaction of 2-naphthalenethiol, dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylates and triphenylphosphine in fairly high yields (*Scheme 1*).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The phosphorus ylide (**7**) may result from initial addition of triphenylphosphine **1** to the acetylenic ester **2** and concomitant protonation of the 1:1 adduct by 2-naphthalenethiol **3** leads to vinyltriphenylphosphonium salts **4**, which undergo the Michael addition reaction with conjugate base to produce sterically congested phosphorus ylide (**5**). The phosphorus ylide **5** convert to the stable phosphorus ylide **7** via organophosphorus intermediate **6** in the reaction conditions. TLC indicated formation of ylides **7** in acetone at room temperature. The reaction was completed at room temperature in 2 h. The reaction proceeds smoothly and cleanly under mild conditions and no side reactions were observed. The mechanism of the reaction has not been established experimentally. However, a possible explanation is proposed in Scheme 1. The formulas of the products **7** were deduced from their IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and ³¹P NMR spectra (See Experimental section). The ³¹P NMR spectra indicated that solutions of compound **7** (CDCl₃ as solvent) contain two rotamers (**7E** and **7Z**). The relative percentages of rotamers in CDCl₃ for each ylide **7** were determined from the ³¹P NMR spectra. The IR spectrum of **7a** showed strong absorptions at 3054 (CH, aromatic), 1739 (C=O, ester), 1592 (C=O, ester), 1439 (C=C), 1262 (CH, aliphatic), 1192 (C-O, ester), and 1123 (C-O, ester) cm⁻¹ indicating the presence of the mentioned groups in its formula. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **7a** compound exhibited four signals readily recognized as arising from methoxy group (δ = 3.81 ppm, s), two aliphatic CH groups (δ = 4.28 (d, ³J_{HP} = 19.3 Hz) and 4.41 (d, ³J_{HP} = 18.5 Hz) ppm, for two rotamers of the phosphorus ylide) and aromatic moieties (δ = 7.2–7.7 ppm, m). The ¹H decoupled ¹³C NMR spectrum of **7a** showed 16 distinct resonances (52.59 (OCH₃); 125.56, 126.00, 127.24, 127.50, 127.66, 128.59, 131.93,



SCHEME 1 **M** = major rotamer and **m** = minor rotamer.

131.98, 133.54, 133.74, and 133.89 (CH and C groups)) in agreement with the **7a** formula. Partial assignment of these resonances is given in the spectral analysis section (See Experimental section). The ^{31}P NMR spectrum of **7a** exhibited two signals readily recognized as arising from phosphorus atom of $\text{P}=\text{C}$ groups ($\delta = 22.66$ and 23.06 ppm, **Z** and **E** rotamers). The ^1H , ^{31}P , and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **7b** are similar to those of **7a**, except for the ester groups (^1H and ^{13}C NMR), which exhibit characteristic signals with appropriate chemical shifts (see Spectral Analysis section).^{28,31}

CONCLUSION

In summary, we have found a simple and efficient method for the preparation of alkyl 2-(2-oxo-1,2-dihydronaphtho[2,1-*b*]thiophen-1-yl)-2-(1,1,1-triphenyl- λ^5 -phosphanylidene)acetates (**7**) from the three-component reaction of 2-naphthalenethiol, dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylates and triphenylphosphine in fairly high yields. We believe the reported method offers a simple and efficient route for the preparation of the stabilized phosphorus ylides **7** (Scheme 1). Its ease of work-up and fairly good yields make it a useful addition to modern synthetic methodologies.^{28,31} Other aspects of this process are under investigation.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a FT-IR Mattson 1000 spectrometer. ¹H, ³¹P and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with a BRUKER DRX-250 AVANCE spectrometer at 250.00, 101.25, and 62.50 MHz respectively.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Ylides 7a-b

To a magnetically stirred solution of triphenylphosphine **1** (0.262 g, 1.00 mmol) and 2-naphthalenethiol (0.16 g, 1.0 mmol) in acetone (4 ml) was added dropwise a mixture of dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylate (0.13 ml, 1.0 mmol) in acetone (3 ml) at -10°C over 15 min. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The volume of solvent in the mixture was reduced (*ca.* up to 3 ml) and white crystals of the product were separated by simple filtration. The crystals were washed with cold acetone (2 ml) and then dried at room temperature (**7a**, white crystals, m.p. 176.8–177.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, yield 74.0%; **7b**, white crystals, m.p. 144.7–145.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, yield 69.0%). The characterization data of the compounds (**7a–b**) are given below.

Spectral Data for Methyl 2-(2-Oxo-1,2-dihydronaphtho[2,1-*b*]thiophen-1-yl)-2-(1,1,1-triphenyl- λ^5 -phosphanylidene)acetate **7a**

IR (KBr) (ν_{max} , cm^{-1}): 3054; 2954; 1739; 1592; 1439; 1262; 1192, and 1123. ¹H NMR, δ_{H} : 3.81 (3 H, s, OCH₃); 4.28 (1 H, d, ³J_{HP} = 19.3 Hz, major rotamer) and 4.41 (1 H, d, ³J_{HP} = 18.5 Hz, minor rotamer); 7.2–7.7 (21 H, m, arom). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ_{C} : 52.59 (OCH₃); 125.56, 126.00, 127.24, 127.50, 127.66, 128.59, 131.93, 131.98, 133.54, 133.74,

and 133.89. ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , major rotamer (M) 59% and minor rotamer (m) 41%), (CDCl_3) δ_{P} : 22.66 and 23.06.

Spectral Data for Ethyl 2-(2-Oxo-1,2-dihydronaphtho [2,1-*b*]thiophen-1-yl)-2-(1,1,1-triphenyl- λ^5 -phosphanylidene) acetate 7b

IR (KBr) ν_{max} , cm^{-1} : 3054, 2985, 1731, 1592, 1439, 1192, and 1123. ^1H NMR, δ_{H} : 1.2–1.4 (3 H, m, CH_3); 4.0–4.1 (2 H, m, OCH_2); 4.25 (1 H, d, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.3$ Hz, major rotamer) and 4.43 (1 H, d, $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 19.0$ Hz, minor rotamer); 7.2–7.7 (21 H, m, arom). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ_{C} : 14.11 (CH_3); 61.34 (OCH_2); 125.45, 125.91, 127.22, 127.48, 127.55, 127.72, 128.37, 128.54, 129.94, 130.21, 131.83, 131.88, 131.95, 132.01, 132.16, 133.56, 133.78, and 133.94. ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , major rotamer (M) 51% and minor rotamer (m) 49%), δ_{P} : 22.58 and 22.95.

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