
R. Divya Mohan1,∗ and Anu Jose2

1Department of Chemistry, Amrita School of Arts and Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri-690 525, India
2Department of Chemistry, Providence Women's College, Calicut-673 009, India

*Corresponding author: E-mail: divyamohanr@hotmail.com

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A facile and novel route for the synthesis of diphenyl oxazinones in good yield was developed using diphenyl cyclopropenone and dialkyl azodicarboxylate with triphenyl phosphine as catalyst at room temperature and are well characterized using spectroscopic studies.

Keywords: Oxazinones, Diphenyl cyclopropenone, Dialkyl azodicarboxylate.

INTRODUCTION

In synthetic organic chemistry carbon hetero-atom and carbon carbon bond forming reactions are of prior importance. Generally polar and pericyclic reaction strategies are used for this which utilize reactive intermediates like carbanions, enols, radicals, carbenes, zwitterions, etc. Although potentially very useful, zwitterions have received less attention from this perspective. The present work is concerned with the use of a less well-known reactive intermediate viz., zwitterion. Neutral nucleophiles like triphenyl phosphine, nucleophilic carbenes, and isocyanides can form zwitterionic intermediates with azodicarboxylates and activated acetylenes [1-4].

Although, phosphate-azoester zwitterion generally known as the Huisgen zwitterion [5], has been known in the literature for almost five decades, barring its use as nucleophilic trigger in the Mitsunobu reaction [6-8]. The chemistry of these powerful reactive intermediates remained largely unexplored. In recent years, our research group has explored the synthetic potential of these zwitterionic intermediates with a view to synthesize a variety of heterocycles [1,2] and uncovered the interesting reactivity patterns of the zwitterions generated from triphenyl phosphine and dialkyl azodicarboxylate. In continuation these studies, presently, we investigated the reactions of Huisgen zwitterions derived from triphenylphosphate-azodicarboxylate with diphenyl cyclopropenones leading to the formation of oxazinones. Cyclopropenones are an important class of compounds because of their application in a wide range of reactions such as decarbonylation, addition, oxidation, substitution reactions, etc. Further, the variety of reactions for such a simple system as cyclopropenone has also led to the incorporation of phosphate azoester into the cyclopropenone system.

EXPERIMENTAL

1H NMR spectra are recorded at 300 and 500 MHz, respectively and 13C spectrum at 125 MHz using Bruker Avance DPX-500 MHz NMR Spectrometer. Chemical shift values (δ) are reported with respect to TMS (1H) and CDCl3 (12C) as internal standards while coupling constant values (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). IR spectra are recorded with Bomem MB Series FT-IR spectrophotometer. Mass spectra are recorded with FAB/LRMS and EI/HRMS using JEOL mass spectrometer. Diethyl azodicarboxylate, diisopropyl azodicaboxylate and dibenzyl azodicarboxylate are purchased from Lancaster Chemical Co. and are used as such. Triphenylphosphine is purchased from Merck. Organic solvents are distilled before use. Thin layer chromatography is done using glass plates with silica gel coating having calcium sulfate as binder material. Column chromatography is performed with silica gel (100-200 mesh) using hexane-ethyl acetate mixture for elution.

Diphenyl cyclopropenone was prepared by employing known procedures [9]. 3,3’-Dinitrodiphenyl cyclopropenone and 3,3’-dibromodiphenyl cyclopropenone were obtained from diphenylcyclopropenone by aromatic electrophilic substitution reactions [10,11]. 4,4’-Dichlorodiphenyl cyclopropenones are prepared starting from their corresponding para substituted phenyl acetic acids [12].

General procedure for the synthesis of 2-alkoxy-4,5-diaryl-6H-1,3-oxazin-6-one: These were obtained from the reaction of the corresponding dialkyl cyclopropenone (0.25 mmol) with
dialkyl azodicarboxylate (4 mmol) in dichloromethane (DCM) in the presence of triphenylphosphine (4 mmol) at room temperature for 15 min under argon atmosphere (Scheme-I). The product was isolated from the mixture with the help of column chro-matography using hexane and ethyl acetate (95:5) as eluent. The reaction was found general for a number of diphenyl cyclopropenones prepared from dibenzyl ketones as shown in Table-1.

![Scheme-I]

**TABLE-1 REACTIONS OF DIARYL CYCLOPROPENONES WITH DIALKYL AZODICARBOXYLATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Ar group</th>
<th>R group</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Phenyl</td>
<td>Isopropyl</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Phenyl</td>
<td>Ethyl</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Phenyl</td>
<td>Benzyl</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>m-Nitro phenyl</td>
<td>Isopropyl</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>m-Nitro phenyl</td>
<td>Ethyl</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>p-Chloro phenyl</td>
<td>Isopropyl</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>p-Chloro phenyl</td>
<td>Ethyl</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>p-Chloro phenyl</td>
<td>Benzyl</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>m-Bromo phenyl</td>
<td>Ethyl</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>m-Bromo phenyl</td>
<td>Isopropyl</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Despite their potential utility, zwitterions are rarely used in synthetic organic chemistry when compared with other reactive intermediates. However, we have employed the utility of Huisgen zwitterion for the synthesis of various oxazinones (1-10).

The mechanism of the reaction is explained by the nucleophilic attack of Huisgen zwitterion on cyclopropene followed by internal cyclization to yield corresponding oxazinone (Scheme-II).

**Conclusion**

We have unravelled a facile and novel route for the synthesis of oxazinones and successfully employed it for a series of diaryl cyclopropenones with various dialkyl azodicarboxylates. It is
noteworthy that the reactivity of cyclopropenones, the ambident electrophiles, towards Huisgen zwitterions is explored for the first time. It may also be mentioned that oxazinones are important compounds since many of them are reported to possess antimicrobial and antifungal activities [13,14].

REFERENCES