

Reaction of Tributyltin Enolates with α -Halogeno Ketones: a New Route to Furan Derivatives

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The reaction of tributyltin enolates with α -halogeno ketones gave substituted furans which were not derived from the normal cross-coupling products, 1,4-diketones, but were formed instead through addition of the tin enolate to the α -halogeno ketones.

By analogy with the palladium-catalysed cross-coupling reaction between tributyltin enolates and various halides,¹ we expected that tributyltin enolates would react with α -halogeno ketones to form 1,4-diketones. However, a reaction took place without a catalyst to give substituted furans, which, from the substitution pattern, are not derived by the cyclization of the 1,4-diketones, but produced instead, *via* addition of the

tin enolate to the α -halogeno ketone. This provides the new route to furan derivatives reported here.

The reaction of acetyltributyltin with α -bromoacetophenone is typical. A stirred solution of acetyltributyltin (36 mmol) and α -bromoacetophenone (20 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) was heated under argon at 80 °C for 20 h. The mixture was then washed with aqueous potassium fluoride to remove

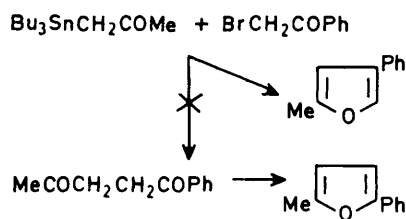
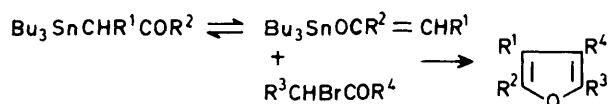


Table 1. Preparation of the furan derivatives.



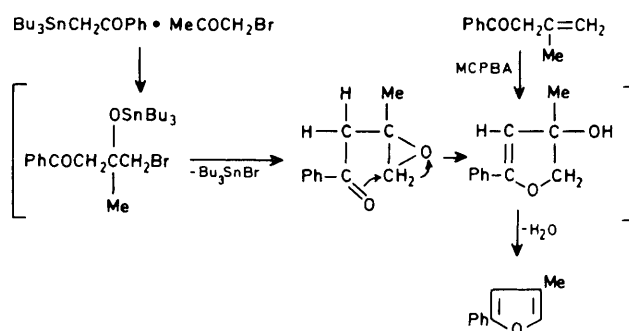
R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	Yield (%) ^a	B.p., t/°C (p/mmHg)
H	Me	H	Ph	32	(M.p. 70–70.5)
H	Me	Me	Ph	57	112 (17)
Me	Me	H	Ph	72	128 (18)
Me	Me	Me	Ph	92	130 (13)
H	Pr	Me	Ph	80	131 (18)
-[CH ₂] ₄ -	H	H	Ph	30	105 (0.4)
-[CH ₂] ₄ -	Me	Me	Ph	55	106 (0.2)
H	Ph	H	Me	37	(M.p. 40–41 ^b)
Me	Ph	H	Me	44	—

^a Isolated yield based on halogeno ketone. ^b Y. F. Perveev, L. Shilnikova, and V. S. Gorchav, *J. Org. Chem., USSR (Eng. Transl.)*, 1972, 8, 2286, 2288, give m.p. 39–40 °C.

the tributyltin bromide formed, and an ethereal solution of the organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄). After evaporation, column chromatography of the residue (silica gel; cyclohexane followed by ether as eluants) provided 2-methyl-4-phenylfuran† in 32% yield.

Other furan derivatives were prepared similarly from α-bromo ketones and tributyltin enolates (Table 1), and were identified by their ¹H n.m.r. spectra. Higher yields tended to be obtained with the more substituted furans.

† ¹H N.m.r.: δ 7.46 (1H, s, 5-H), 7.27 (5H, br.s, 4-Ph), 6.2 (1H, s, 3-H), and 2.33 (3H, s, 2-Me).



Scheme 1

The reaction may be explained in terms of an initial addition of enolate to the carbonyl group of the α-bromo ketone,² followed by elimination of tributyltin bromide to produce the β,γ-epoxy ketone,³ which then undergoes cyclodehydration. This mechanism was supported by the fact that heating a solution of epoxidized 2-methylallyl phenyl ketone with *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (MCPBA) gave 2-phenyl-4-methylfuran (Scheme 1).

There are a number of methods for the preparation of furan rings,⁴ and the present has the advantages of simplicity and lack of additives.

Received, 7th June 1983; Com. 743

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