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Published online: 17 Aug 2006.

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SYNTHETIC COMMUNICATIONS®

Vol. 33, No. 6, pp. 879–883, 2003

A Facile Deprotection of Dithioacetals by FeCl₃/KI

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ABSTRACT

Carbonyl compounds were regenerated from corresponding dithioacetals *via* refluxing with FeCl₃/KI and methanol as a solvent.

Key Words: FeCl₃; KI; Dithioacetals.

Dithioacetals are frequently used to protect carbonyl compounds in the course of total syntheses and hence several systems^[1] have been reported for their deprotection. Some of them include use of transition metals (Hg²⁺, Ce⁴⁺, Tl³⁺).^[2–4] However most of these methods

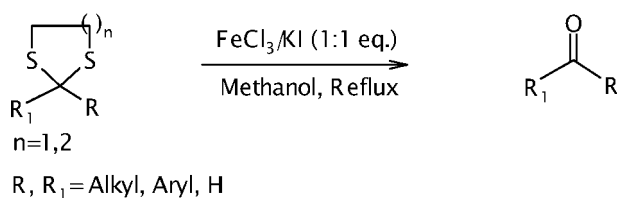
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involve use of toxic, corrosive oxidants in stoichiometric amounts at elevated temperatures. In connection with our interest in exploring the utility of FeCl_3 we have recently demonstrated the unique efficiency of FeCl_3 to function both as a Lewis acid^[5] in catalyzing ionic Diels–Alder reactions as well as an oxidising agent^[6] in effecting iodoetherification and iodolactonisation. Our interest in developing methods for deprotection of oxathioacetals^[7,8] and dithioacetals^[9] encouraged us to investigate the reaction with one equivalent of FeCl_3/KI . It was surmised that FeCl_3/KI combination could serve as an excellent reagent as the source of iodonium ion/iodine. These in turn would react with dithioacetal thereby making it a better leaving group, thus helping in regeneration of carbonyl compounds. Recent report on utility of FeCl_3 by Kamal *et al.*^[10] for deprotection of dithioacetals prompts us to disclose our findings. Although the reaction reported by Kamal *et al.* is efficient, FeCl_3 has to be used in a very large excess. This becomes really unattractive especially when it has to be used on a large scale. Herein we report that dithioacetals are efficiently deprotected in the presence of FeCl_3 and KI in very short time (Sch. 1).

It is interesting to note that the reaction does not proceed with either FeCl_3 (1 eq) or KI (1 eq) alone. After considerable trials it was concluded that combination of FeCl_3 and KI in the ratio 1:1 is required for clean transformation. The reaction is fast and the product is isolated by a simple aqueous workup.

A wide variety of dithiolanes derived from ketones and aldehydes were shown to undergo facile deprotection under these conditions (Table 1). Both dithiolanes as well as dithiane (Entries 7 and 8 respectively) were deprotected with equal ease. The starting materials^[11–15] and the products, all previously known compounds were identified by comparison of their physical and spectroscopic data with literature data.



Scheme 1.

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Table 1. Deprotection of dithioacetals by FeCl_3/KI .

Entry	Dithioacetal	Product	Time (hr)	Yield (%)
1			3	90
2			4	91 ^a
3			3	90
4			3	91
5			3	91
6			11	87 ^b
7			7	89
8			6	89
9			5.5	90
10			7	91
11			6	92 ^c
12			4	88

^aM.p. = 106°C (lit.^[16] M.p. = 106–106.5°C).^bbased on recovery of the starting material.^cM.p. = 49°C (lit.^[17] M.p. = 49–50°C).



In conclusion the present protocol^[18] is efficient, nonhazardous, and therefore should find widespread utility in organic synthesis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors PBS, RRK and KP thank CSIR, New Delhi for financial support. Funding from CSIR, New Delhi under YSA (SPC) scheme is gratefully acknowledged.

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18. General Procedure: A mixture of dithioacetal of p-methoxy benzaldehyde (212 mg, 1 mmol), FeCl₃ (162 mg, 1 mmol) and KI (166 mg, 1 mmol) was refluxed in methanol. Progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After the completion of the reaction, methanol was removed under reduced pressure and residue was extracted in ether. The ether extract was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the organic layer was filtered. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure furnished pure anisaldehyde (122 mg, 90%). IR (film, cm⁻¹) : ν = 3009, 2739, 1684, 1578, 1511, 1461. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz): δ = 3.89 (s, 3H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 9.90 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz): δ = 190.6, 164.4, 131.7, 129.7, 114.1, 55.3.

Received in the USA February 21, 2002



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