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Synthetic Communications: An International Journal for Rapid Communication of Synthetic Organic Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/lsyc20

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To cite this article: Ji-Dong Lou & Wen-Xing Lou (1997) Oxidation of Alcohols to Carbonyl Compounds with a New Potassium Permanganate Adsorbed on Kieselguhr Reagent, Synthetic Communications: An International Journal for Rapid Communication of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, 27:21, 3697-3699, DOI: 10.1080/00397919708007290

To link to this article: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00397919708007290</u>

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OXIDATION OF ALCOHOLS TO CARBONYL COMPOUNDS WITH A NEW POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE ADSORBED ON KIESELGUHR REAGENT

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ABSTRACT: A new reagent, potassium permanganate adsorbed on kieselguhr, suitable for the oxidation of alcohols to the corresponding carbonyl compounds is described.

The oxidation of alcohols to the carbonyl compounds with potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) is used widely in organic synthesis and a number of procedures have been reported. ^{1, 2} For this transformation, a new technique of using KMnO₄ adsorbed on a solid support has been recently exploited. The solid supports used include molecular sieve, ³ silica gel, ³ montmorillonite clay, ³ CuSO₄·5H₂O, ⁴ bentonite ⁵ and alumina. ⁶ These supported KMnO₄ reagents ⁷ have achieved good selectivity under mild conditions and convenient isolation of

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the product. Previously, we have found that kieselguhr is a good solid support of chromic acid for the oxidation of primary alcohols to the corresponding aldehydes⁸ and now report that $KMnO_4$ adsorbed on kieselguhr is a new reagent suitable for the oxidation of alcohols to the corresponding aldehydes or ketones.

The present $KMnO_4$ -kieselguhr reagent not only has the same advantages as other supported $KMnO_4$ reagents described above but also has some added benefits such as shorter reaction time than that of $KMnO_4$ -molecular sieve reagent and the oxidation of primary alcohols to aldehydes is more efficient than that of $KMnO_4$ -CuSO₄·5H₂O or bentonite reagent.

The $KMnO_4$ -kieselguhr reagent is prepared by addition of a weighed amount of kieselguhr to a solution of $KMnO_4$ in water and evaporating to dryness. The oxidation is very simple. After contact of the alcohols with $KMnO_4$ -kieselguhr reagent the corresponding aldehydes or ketones are obtained by filtration and evaporation of the solvent. Our results are reported in the Table.

Substrate	Product *	Yield ^b (%)	Bp (lit.) (°C)
CH ₃ CH ₂ CHOHCH ₃	CH ₃ CH ₂ COCH ₃	82	79-81 (79.6) ⁹
(C ₆ H ₅) ₂ CHOH	$(C_6H_5)_2CO$	97	47-49 (48.5 - 49) ^{d, 9}
C₅H₅CH₂OH	C ₆ H₅CHO	91	179-180 (179) ¹⁰
C ₆ H ₅ CH=CHCH ₂ OH	C₀H₅CH=CHCHO	94	240-242 (240-241) ^{c, 11}
p-CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄ CH ₂ OH	p-CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄ CHO	86	248 (248) °

Table, Oxidation of Alcohols to Carbonyl Compounds

- a. All the aldehydes and ketones have been described previously in the literature and were identified by their infrared spectra or the infrared spectra and Mps of their 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazones.
- b. Yield of isolated product.
- c. Mp. of 2,4-DNP.
- d. Mp.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Preparation of $KMnO_4$ -kieselguhr Reagent: To a solution of $KMnO_4$ (40g) in water (1000ml) kieselguhr (160g) is added with a stirring. After evaporating in vacuo, the resultant is dried to give about 195g $KMnO_4$ -kieselguhr reagent.

Oxidation of Benzyl Alcohol to Benzaldehyde. Typical Procedure: The

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above reagent (118g) was placed in a flask together with toluene (200ml) and the mixture was magnetically stirred. Then a solution of benzyl alcohol (5.4g, 0.05mol) in toluene (30ml) was added and after 1h at 70°C the solid was filtered off and washed with toluene (3×30 ml). The combined filtrates were evaporated to give 4.8g (91%) of benzaldehyde, bp. 179-180°C, lit. ¹⁰bp. 179°C.

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(Received in The Netherlands 20 May 1997)