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An Improved Iodine(III) Mediated Method for Thiocyanation of 2-Arylindan-1,3-diones, Phenols, and Anilines

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ABSTRACT

An improved method for thiocyanation of 2-arylindan-1,3-diones, phenols, and anilines using a reagent combination of (dichloroiodo)benzene and potassium thiocyanate in dry dichloromethane is described.

Key Words: Thiocyanation; Organohypervalent iodine; (Dichloro-iodo) benzene; Potassium thiocyanate.

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There is considerable recent interest in the use of organohypervalent iodine(III) compounds as oxidizing agents in organic synthesis.^[1–3] We have recently reported that a combination reagent (dichloroiodo)benzene and lead thiocyanate in dichloromethane (system i) constitutes a very efficient reagent system for α -thiocyanation of carbonyl and β -dicarbonyl compounds.^[2] The same reagent system has also been employed for the thiocyanation of phenols and anilines.^[4]

In an effort to improve the experimental procedure and to avoid the use of toxic and expensive lead thiocyanate, we have now used an alternative reagent system, i.e., (dichloroiodo)benzene-potassium thiocyanate in dichloromethane (system **ii**) to effect these thiocyanations.

We, first carried out the reaction with 2-phenylindan-1,3-dione (1a) as a typical example of α -substituted β -dicarbonyl compounds, to afford 2phenyl-2-thiocyanatoindan-1,3-dione (2a) in 85% yield. Other 2-arylindan-1,3-diones (1b-e) also reacted smoothly with system ii to give 2-aryl-2-thiocyanatoindan-1,3-diones (2b-e). The scope of this reagent system was further extended for thiocyanation of phenols and anilines. Only representative cases were investigated and it was found that system ii efficiently converts phenol (3a), catechol (3b), α -naphthol (7a), aniline (5a), substituted anilines (5b-d), α -naphthylamine (7b) to the corresponding *p*-thiocyanato derivatives 4a, 4b, 6a, 6b-d, 8a, 8b respectively (Sch. 1). The yields using system ii are comparable with



Scheme 1.

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those obtained by using system i (Table 1). However, the same approach involving either systems i or ii, failed to convert other substrates such as *o*-phenylenediamine, *p*-phenylenediamine, and *p*-aminophenol to thiocyanato products; rather an inseparable mixture of several products was obtained.

Interestingly, in certain other cases such as β -naphthol 9 and hydroquinone 11, these thiocyanation procedures using systems i/ii lead to the formation of oxathiole 10 and bisoxathiole 12 as outlined in Eqs. (1) and (2). Obviously intramolecular cyclization of thiocyanato or dithiocyanato product might have led to the formation of the corresponding oxathioles.

Earlier, thiocyanation of phenols and anilines has been reported (i) by using dichlorourea and NH₄SCN,^[5] (ii) with Cu (SCN)₂,^[6] (iii) by reaction with NaSCN and Br₂.^[7]

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were taken in open capillaries and are uncorrected. Most of the chemicals were obtained from commercial suppliers. 2-Arylindan-1,3-diones (**1a–e**) were prepared according to the literature methods.^[8,9]

Compd. no.	M.p. (°C)	Lit. m.p. (°C)	Yield (%) system i	Yield (%) system ii
2a	124–125	124-126 ^[10]	86	85
2b	124-125	127 ^[10]	90	88
2c	108 - 110	108-110 ^[2]	90	88
2d	139-140	138-140 ^[10]	84	87
2e	125-127	126-128 ^[10]	87	90
4a	58	59-60 ^[4]	78	72
4b	142	142 ^[4]	87	79
6a	102	97–98 ^[11]	72	69
6b	100	98 ^[4]	80	86
6c	106	107-109 ^[4]	76	72
6d	171	168-170 ^[5]	71	73
8a	110-112	113 ^[7]	65	69
8b	147-148	146–147 ^[7]	70	74
10	104	106 ^[12]	73	77
12	303	308-309 ^[13]	72	75

Table 1. Physical data of thiocyanated products.

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General Procedure for Thiocyanation Using PhICl₂-KSCN/CH₂Cl₂ (System ii)

To a suspension of potassium thiocyanate (464 mg, 4.8 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL), (dichloroiodo)benzene (656 mg, 2.4 mmol) was added at 0°C. The mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 15–20 min. Then the substrate (1a–e, 3a–b, 5a–d, 7a–b, 9, 11) (2 mmol) (in case of 11, 1 mmol) was added to it and stirring was continued for 30 min, completion of reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered and filtrate was adsorbed on silica gel and chromatographed using hexane:ethyl acetate (9:1) as eluent. The thiocyanato products (2a–e, 4a–b, 6a–d, 8a–b) and oxathioles (10 and 12) were identified by comparison of their melting points (Table 1) and spectral data with those reported in literature. IR spectra of all the products showed a characteristic sharp SCN absorption band at ~2160 cm⁻¹.



System i = PhICl₂, Pb(SCN)₂/CH₂Cl₂

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