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Chemospecific Preparation of Both Enantiomers of α -Terpinyl Trifluoroacetate

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ABSTRACT

(*R*)- and (*S*)- α -Terpinyl trifluoroacetate can easily be prepared in 56–64% yield and high *ee* by the reaction of (*R*)- and (*S*)-limonene with trifluoroacetic acid in cyclohexane. The products were fully characterized by ¹H and ¹³C NMR, IR and MS and theirs Chiral-HRGC analysis showed there is no loss of optical activity during the reaction.

Key Words: Limonene; p-Menthenes; Terpinyl trifluoroacetate.

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INTRODUCTION

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Electrophilic additions to limonene may suffer from issues of selectivity (1). Sometimes additions occur to both double bonds of a same molecule (e.g. bromination, acid-catalyzed hydration) or mixture of addition products to the disubstituted and trisubstituted double bonds are obtained (e.g. epoxidation, carbenoid addition).^[1] Recently, we communicated that the surface-mediated hydrohalogenation of both enantiomers of limonene produced the α -terpinyl halides chemo- and regiospecifically.^[2,3] The enantiomeric excess of the products were determined by Chiral-High Resolution Gas Chromatography (Chiral-HRGC).

In 1976, Roberts published a kinetic study on the reaction of limonene with trifluoroacetic acid and the product (α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate) was characterized by ¹H NMR only.^[4] As part of our continuing interest in chemospecific functionalization of limonene,^[1-3,5] we have revisited this reaction using both enantiomers of limonene and communicate our results here.

RESULTS

The reaction of (R)-limonene (10 mmol) with trifluoroacetic acid (10 mmol) in cyclohexane was performed at room temperature in an open flask for 1 h. After work up, (R)- α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate was obtained in 64% yield and >99% optical purity. The same reaction performed with (S)-limonene led to (S)- α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate in 56% yield (Sch. 1).

Chiral-HRGC of (R)- α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate showed ee > 99%[similar to the ee of the starting (R)-limonene], indicating that there is no loss of optical activity in this reaction. On the other hand, Chiral-HRGC of (S)- α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate showed the presence of small amount of the (R)-enantiomer, attributed to the fact that our (S)-limonene used was not



Scheme 1.

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α -Terpinyl Trifluoroacetate

Table 1. Chiral-HRGC and polarimetric analysis of both enantiomers of limonene and α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate.

Compound	t_{R} (min) ^a	<i>ee</i> (%) ^b	$[\alpha]_D^{28}$
	22.2	>99	+118.7 (neat)
$\left\langle \right\rangle$	21.6	>86	- 103.4 (neat)
o totcf3	159.8	>99	+44.5 (8.2%, cyclohexane)
o totcf3	157.9	>87	-40.3 (8.2%, cyclohexane)

^aSee Experimental for chiral-HRGC conditions of analysis.

^bDetermined by integration of the areas of the peaks in Chiral-HRGC.

enantiomerically pure (ee > 86%). In fact, the stereoselectivity in both reactions are similar, as the products should have the same ee of the substrates. Table 1 summarizes the Chiral-HRGC and polarimetric analysis of substrates and products.

These results are important because in a protic media the enantiopurity of limonene can be totally or partially destroyed by protonation of the disubstituted double bond followed by 1,2-hydrogen shift from the stereogenic center.^[6] Another possibility is the loss of optical activity by protonation-deprotonation of the trisubstituted double bond of limonene or product.

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EXPERIMENTAL

General

(*R*)-limonene (Dierberger) and (*S*)-limonene (Aldrich) were distilled prior to use [b.p. 176–178°C, lit. 178°C]^[7] and other chemicals were used as received. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR were acquired on a Bruker DRX-300 (300 MHz and 75 MHz, respectively) spectrometer in CDCl₃ solutions with TMS as internal standard. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 1600 FT-IR spectrometer (KBr film). MS were obtained on a Hewlett–Packard HP5896-A HRGC-MS using electron impact (70 eV). Polarimetric analysis were done on a Jasco DIP 370 polarimeter. Chiral-HRGC analysis by FID were performed on a Varian 3400 CX chromatograph with a Cyclodex-B (J. & W. Scientific) with 30 m (length), 0.25 mm (i.d.) and 0.25 μ m (film thickness) capillary silica column and He (50 cm/s) as carrier gas (split 1/20). Conditions of analysis: injector temperature: 240°C, detector temperature: 240°C, column temperature: 50°C.

(**R**)-**α**-**Terpinyl trifluoroacetate**. To a stirred solution of (*R*)-limonene (1.36 g, 10 mmol) in cyclohexane (10 mL), CF₃CO₂H (0.80 g, 10 mmol) was slowly added at room temperature. After 1 h, the solution was washed with water (5 mL), 5% NaHCO₃ (5 mL), water (5 mL) and then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure (2 Torr) and low heating (<50°C) to produce pure (*R*)-*α*-terpinyl trifluoroacetate (1.60 g, 64%).^{a 1}H NMR: δ 1.15–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.73–2.07 (m, 5H), 5.37 (broad s, 1H) ppm. RMN ¹³C: δ 22.7, 23.0, 23.3, 23.7, 26.2, 30.6, 42.6, 91.9, 114.5 (q, *J*_{C-F} 285.4 Hz), 119.7, 134.1, 156.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} 40.8 Hz) ppm. IR: ν 2931, 1778, 1447, 1372, 1219, 1170, 1123, 861, 778 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z (%) 137 (M⁺-CF₃CO₂, 13), 136 (49), 121 (100), 93 (75). Polarimetric and Chiral-HRGC analysis are shown in Table 1.

(S)- α -Terpinyl trifluoroacetate. Same as above, (S)-limonene used instead of (R)-enantiomer, obtained 1.40 g (56%). Polarimetric and Chiral-HRGC analysis are shown in Table 1.

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^aThe purity of α -terpinyl trifluoroacetate (>99%) was checked by comparison of its analytical data with the previously reported (4) as well as by co-injection in HRGC with two chromatographic columns of different polarities (CARBOWAX and RTX-5) that showed only one peak.

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α-Terpinyl Trifluoroacetate

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