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Ammonium Chlorochromate Adsorbed on Silica Gel: A New Reagent for the Oxidation of Alcohols and Benzoin to Corresponding Carbonyl Compounds

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**AMMONIUM CHLOROCHROMATE ADSORBED ON SILICA GEL:
A NEW REAGENT FOR THE OXIDATION OF ALCOHOLS AND
BENZOINS TO CORRESPONDING CARBONYL COMPOUNDS**

Gui-Sheng Zhang*, Qi-Zeng Shi, Mi-Feng Chen, Kun Cai

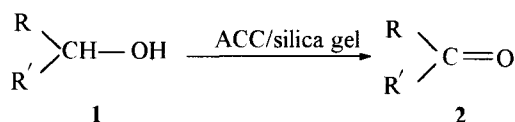
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
ABSTRACT: A new reagent, Ammonium chlorochromate adsorbed on silica gel, suitable for the oxidation of alcohols and benzoins to the corresponding carbonyl compounds is described.

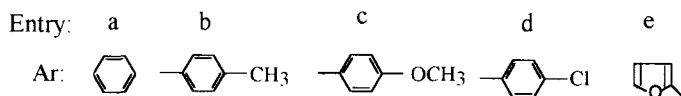
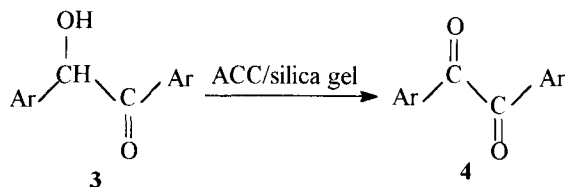
The concept of utilizing reagents adsorbed on inert inorganic supports for organic synthesis has been reported, and applied especially to chromium compounds^{1~7}. These reagents oxidize a wide variety of alcohols to carbonyl compounds with the advantages of mild reaction condition, convenient isolation of the oxidized product and high yield but they have the disadvantage of being photosensitive and unstable. These reagents can be kept for only several weeks under vacuum in the dark before use.

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We have reported that ammonium chlorochromate adsorbed on alumina is a convenient oxidation for alcohols and benzoin to the corresponding carbonyl compounds⁸. In the same perspective we report now that ammonium chlorochromate adsorbed on silica gel (ACC/silica gel) is a new reagent suitable for oxidation of alcohols **1**, even with sensitive structure like allylic alcohols, to the corresponding carbonyl compounds **2** and of benzoin **3** to corresponding benzil **4** with the same advantages as other reagents described above. In addition, the present reagent is more stable than the above reagents, it can be kept in for several months in air at room temperature without losing its activity.



- a R = C₆H₅, R' = H b R = C₆H₅, R' = CH₃
 c R = C₆H₅CH=CH, R' = H d R = , R' = H
 e R = CH₂=CH, R' = H f R = R' = C₆H₅
 g R, R' = —(CH₂)₅— h R, R' = —(CH₂)₄—
 i R = C₆H₅CH₂, R' = H j R = CH₃(CH₂)₈, R' = H
 k R = CH₃(CH₂)₆, R' = H



This reagent is easily prepared by addition of a weighed amount of silica gel to a solution of ammonium chlorochromate in water and rotary evaporating to dryness. The adsorbed reagent is remarkably effective in oxidizing alcohols and benzoin to corresponding carbonyl compounds. The reaction is simply performed by stirring excess oxidant with alcohols or benzoin in cyclohexane at suitable temperature. The reaction product is then isolated by filtration of the reagent and removal of the solvent by distillation. The results obtained from the oxidation of 11 alcohols and 5 benzoin are reported in the **Table 1** and **Table 2**

Table 1 The oxidation of alcohols with ACC/silica gel

Alcohols (1)	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Ratio of oxidant/1	Yield a,b (%)	m.p. or b.p./kPa of 2 Found(°C) Lit. ⁹ (°C)	
1a	30	2	2	95(91)	61/1.33	62/1.33
	60	1.5	2	94(89)		
1b	30	2	3	94(87)	83.5/1.60	83/1.60
	60	1	3	95(90)		
1c	30	3	2	91(80)	130/2.67	130/2.67
	60	2	2	92(81)		
1d	30	3	2	80(61)	68/2.67	68/2.67
	60	2	2	79(41)		
1e	30	2	2	75 ^c		
1f	60	4	3	(80)	46.5 ~ 49	47~49
1g	60	3	3	90(83)	48/2.00	47/2.00
1h	60	3	3	89(85)	129/101.3	130/101.3
1i	60	3	2	70(65)	78/1.33	78/1.33
1j	60	3	2	85(80)	94.5/1.60	94/1.60
1k	60	3	2	86(81)	71/2.67	72/2.67

a Yields determined by G.L.C., unless otherwise noted

b Figures in parentheses are yields of isolated product. All compounds isolated had identical spectral characteristics with the corresponding authentic samples

c Determined by 2,4-D.N.P.

Table 2 The oxidation of benzoin with ACC/silica gel

Benzoin (3)	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Ratio of oxidant/ 3	Yield (%)	m.p.(°C) of 4	
					Found	Lit.
3a	60	14	2.5	95	94~96	92~94 ¹⁰
3b	60	16	2.5	91	101~104	103~104 ¹⁰
3c	58	14	2.5	90	132~134	130~133 ¹⁰
3d	56	15	2.5	79	195~197	195~196 ¹¹
3e	55	16	2.5	85	162~164	164~165 ¹²

Experimental

Preparation of ACC /silica gel

To a solution of chromium trioxide (40g, 0.4mol) in water (100mL) is added ammonium chloride (21.4g, 0.4mol) within 15min at 40 °C. The mixture is cooled until a yellow-orange solid forms. Reheating to 40 °C gives a solution. Silica gel (200g, 100~200 mesh) is then added to the solution with stirring at 40 °C. After evaporation in a rotary evaporator, the orange solid is dried in vacuum for 2h at 70 °C. The reagent can be kept for several months in air at room temperature without losing its activity.

Oxidation of Benzalcohol to Benzaldehyde; Typical Procedure

The above reagent (17g, 26mmol) is added to a flask containing a solution of benzalcohol (1.4g, 13 mmol) in cyclohexane (20mL). after stirring for 2h, the solid is filtered, washed with three 30 mL portion of ether. The combined filtrates are evaporated and vacuum distilled to afford benzaldehyde; yield: 1.25g (91%); b.p. 62 °C /1.33kPa. **2b~2k** is obtained as the similar way. The results from the oxidation of **1a~1k** are summarized in the **Table 1**.

Oxidation of Benzoin to Benzil; Typical Procedure

To a solution of benzoin (1g, 4.7mmol) in cyclohexane (15mL) , the above reagent (7.65g, 11.7mmol) is added and the mixture is stirring for 14h at 60°C. The solid is filtered , washed several times with ether. The combined filtrates are evaporated and the residue is recrystallized from EtOH to get 0.94g of the product (**4a**) as a yellow needles; yield: 95%;m.p. 94~96°C; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 1655 , 1590 , 1580 , 790 , 725 , 690 , 680 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{HNMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 60 MHz) δ_{H} : 7.15~7.90 (m, Ar-H).

4b~4e are obtained in the same way; **4b**: IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 1655, 1590, 1565, 1450, 875, 835, 780, 740, 680 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{HNMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 60 MHz) δ_{H} : 2.40 (6H, s, 2CH₃), 7.30, 7.80 (8H, dd, J=8Hz, Ar-H). **4c**: IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 1660, 1600, 1510, 880, 830 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{HNMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 60 MHz) δ_{H} : 3.80 (6H, s, 2CH₃), 6.95, 7.80 (8H, dd, J=8Hz, Ar-H). **4d**: IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 1650, 1590, 880, 820, 730 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{HNMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 60 MHz) δ_{H} : 7.41, 7.78 (8H, dd, J=8.7Hz, Ar-H). **4e**: IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 1650, 1400, 1290, 1030, 940, 810, 760 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{HNMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 60 MHz) δ_{H} : 6.60 (2H, m) , 7.66 (4H, m). The results from the oxidation of **4a~4e** are summarized in the **Table 2**.

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