# Microwave-Assisted Phospha-Michael Addition of Dialkyl Phosphites, a Phenyl-*H*-Phosphinate, and Diphenylphosphine Oxide to Maleic Derivatives

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ABSTRACT: A series of new >P(O)-substituted succinic derivatives was synthesized by the microwave-assisted phospha-Michael addition of dialkyl phosphites, ethyl phenyl-H-phosphinate, and diphenylphosphine oxide to N-phenyl and N-methyl maleimide, as well as to maleic acid anhydride. © 2012 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. Heteroatom Chem 23:235–240, 2012; View this article online at wileyonlinelibrary.com. DOI 10.1002/hc.21007

# **INTRODUCTION**

The phospha-Michael addition is an important P–C bond-forming reaction in synthetic organic chemistry. The nucleophiles may include tervalent P-reagents, such as phosphines, phosphinites, and phosphonites, or more often >P(O)H species, such as dialkyl phosphites, secondary phosphine oxides, and other related derivatives [1–6]. The addition of >P(O)H species to  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones and esters is usually carried out under basic conditions

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to afford  $\gamma$ -ketophosphonates,  $\gamma$ -ketophosphinates, or  $\gamma$ -ketophosphine oxides. Asymmetric phospha-Michael variations using chiral P-reagents are also well known [7–9]. The addition of >P(O)H species to  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated C=O or P=O compounds may lead to derivatives that are of potential biological activity [10,11].

A few maleic derivative-related phospha-Michael reactions are known from the literature. The adduct formed from the interaction of N-phenylmaleimide and diphenylphosphine oxide was isolated in 73% after boiling the components in toluene for 8 h [12]. Applying 1,5,7-triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (TBD) as the catalyst and toluene as the solvent, the addition was already completed after 5 min at 26°C [13]. Besides diphenylphosphine oxide, diphenyl phosphite was also used as the reagent [13]. The  $\eta^1 - N$ maleimidato ligand has also been shown to undergo the phospha-Michael reaction with >P(O)H species in the coordination sphere [14]. N-Arylmaleimides were reacted with bis(pentafluorophenyl)phosphine oxide in chloroform at the boiling point [15]. It is noteworthy that the addition of silvlphosphines to *N*-phenylmaleimide followed by oxidation with 30% hydrogen peroxide also led to maleimide- >P(O)Hadduct-type products [16].

One author of this article investigated the addition of >P(O)H species under different conditions to simple model compounds [17,18]. Later

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on, >P(O)H species were added on the double bond of 1-phenyl-2-phospholene 1-oxide and 1substituted-1,2-dihydrophosphinine oxides to afford a 3-(>P(O)-)phospholane oxide [19] and 3-(>P(O)-) 1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophosphinine oxides, respectively [20–22]. The bis(phosphinoxido) derivatives served as bidentate P-ligands after double deoxygenation and led to *cis* chelate ring Pt complexes on reaction with dichlorodibenzonitrile platinum [19,23]. Because of the unreactivity of the substrates, microwave (MW) irradiation was not useful in the phospha-Michael reaction of 2-phospholene 1-oxides and 1,2-dihydrophosphinine 1-oxides.

In this paper, we investigate the phospha-Michael additions of >P(O)H species to maleic derivatives in which MW irradiation may promote the reaction.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

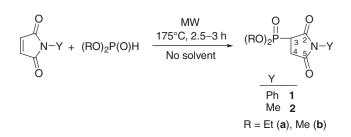
In the first experiments, dialkyl phosphites, such as diethyl phosphite and dimethyl phosphite, were reacted with *N*-phenyl- and *N*-methylmaleimides (NPMI and NMMI) under solventless conditions and MW irradiation. Completion of the additions at 150°C required a reaction time of 6–7 h. Applying a reaction temperature of 175°C, the addition of dialkyl phosphites to NPMI was complete after 2.5 h, whereas with NMMI the reaction time was 3 h. This experience is the consequence of the somewhat more enhanced reactivity of NPMI as compared to NMMI. The 3-(>P(O)-)-substituted succinimide derivatives (**1a**, **1b**, **2a**, and **2b**) were obtained in 71–95% yields after column chromatography (Table 1, entries 1–4; Scheme 1).

The addition of ethyl phenyl-*H*-phosphinate to maleimide derivatives was carried out under similar conditions (MW,  $175^{\circ}$ C, 0.5-3 h) to afford 3-P(O)PhEtO-succinimides **3** and **4** (Scheme 2). Be-

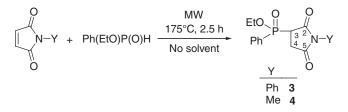
 
 TABLE 1
 Phospha-Michael Reactions with Maleic Derivatives under MW Conditions

Starting Materials	Т (° С)	t (h)	Yield (%)	Entry
NPMI + (EtO) <sub>2</sub> P(O)H	175	2.5	83 ( <b>1a</b> )	1
NPMI + (MeÓ) <sub>2</sub> P(Ó)H	175	2.5	81 ( <b>1b</b> )	2
$NMMI + (EtO)_2 P(O)H$	175	3	95 ( <b>2a</b> )	3
NMMI + (MeÓ) <sub>2</sub> P(Ó)H	175	3	71 ( <b>2b</b> )	4
NPMI + (EtO)PhP(O)H	175	2.5	92 ( <b>3</b> ) <sup>á</sup>	5
NMMI + (EtÓ)PhP(Ó)H	175	3	80 ( <b>4</b> ) <sup>a</sup>	6
NPMI + $Ph_2P(O)H$	120	3	97 ( <b>5</b> )	7
$NMMI + Ph_2P(O)H$	120	3	98 ( <b>6</b> )	8
$MAA + (EtO)_2 P(O)H$	120	3	49 ( <b>7</b> )	9
$MAA + Ph_2P(O)H$	120	3	66 ( <b>8</b> )	10

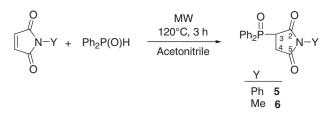
<sup>a</sup>As a ca 1:1 mixture of two isomers.



SCHEME 1



SCHEME 2



#### SCHEME 3

cause of the P-chiral center in the reagent and the prochiral center in the substrate, the Michael adducts (**3** and **4**) were formed as a  $\sim$ 51:49 mixture of two diastereomers. The yields of products **3** and**4** were 92% and 80%, respectively (Table 1, entries 5 and 6).

Diphenylphosphine oxide could already be added on the double bond of maleimides at  $120^{\circ}$ C/3 h on MW irradiation. The 3-Ph<sub>2</sub>P(O)-succinimides **5** and **6** were obtained in 97% and 98% yields, (Table 1, entries 7 and 8; Scheme 3).

The succinimides (1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3, 4, and 6) were characterized by <sup>31</sup>P, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>1</sup>H NMR, as well as mass spectral methods. Adducts 1a and 5 are known from the literature [24,12,13], but for compound 1a no characterization has been provided. For this, compound 1a was also characterized fully by us. As a consequence of the stereogenic C<sub>3</sub> center, diastereotopy of the P-substituents could be observed in the <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compounds 1a, 1b, 2a, and 2b and in the<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of product 6.

Comparative thermal experiments were also carried out (Table 2). Regarding the addition of diethyl

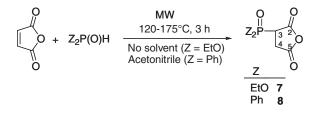
Starting Materials	Solvent	Т (°С)	t (h)	Conversion (%)	Yield (%)	Entry
NPMI + (EtO) <sub>2</sub> P(O)H	PhMe	110	24	0		1
NPMI + $(EtO)_{2}^{-}P(O)H$	o-xylene	144	12	32 ( <b>1a</b> )		2
$NPMI + (EtO)_2 P(O)H$	_	175	3.5	84 ( <b>1</b> a) <sup>′a</sup>	72	3
NMMI + $(EtO)_{2}P(O)H$	_	175	4	69 ( <b>2a</b> ) <sup>a</sup>		4
$NPMI + Ph_2P(O)H'$	PhMe	110	8	100 ( <b>5</b> )	93 (73 [12])	5

TABLE 2 Phospha-Michael Reactions with Maleimide Derivatives under Thermal Conditions

<sup>a</sup>No improvement on further heating.

phosphite to NPMI, there was no reaction at all in boiling toluene after a 24-h reaction time (Table 2, entry 1). Carrying out the reaction in o-xylene at the boiling point (144°C) for 12 h, the conversion was 32% (Table 2, entry 2). Applying a reaction temperature of 175°C for 3.5 h in the absence of any solvent, the conversion was 84% that did not increase on additional heating. In this case, product 1a was isolated in 72% (Table 2, entry 3). The similar reaction of NMMI with diethyl phosphite led to a conversion of 69% after 4 h (Table 2, entry 4). Finally, the addition of diphenylphosphine oxide to NPMI had to be carried out in toluene as the solvent and it was found that at 110°C the reaction took place in a quantitative conversion after 8 h (Table 2, entry 5). It can be seen that the thermal phospha-Michael additions were slower than the MW variations; moreover, except in one case, the final conversions were not quantitative.

Phospha-Michael additions to maleic acid anhydride (MAA) were also investigated under MW irradiation. The addition of diethyl phosphite and diphenylphosphine oxide to MAA could be best accomplished at 120°C and 175°C, respectively, to furnish the corresponding adducts (**7** and **8**) after a reaction time of 3 h (Scheme 4). In these cases, the yield of products **7** and **8** was 49% and 66%, respectively (Table 1, entries 9 and 10). The adducts (**7** and **8**) were characterized by <sup>31</sup>P, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>1</sup>H NMR, as well as the mass spectral data. Duplication of the ethoxy and a part of the phenyl carbon atom signals in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compounds **7** and **8**, respectively, referred to the phenomenon of diastereotopy.



SCHEME 4

In summary, a series of >P(O)-substituted maleic derivatives was synthesized by the MWassisted and, in most cases, solvent-free phospha-Michael addition of dialkyl phosphites, ethyl phenyl-H-phosphinate, or diphenylphosphine oxide to N-substituted maleimides or maleic anhydride, in most instances with competent (on average 81%) yields and in a short (2.5-3 h) reaction time. The thermal phospha-Michael additions were slower and, in almost all cases, the final conversions were not quantitative. The advantage of the MW-assisted method developed is that there is no need for a solvent and catalyst. At the same time, a temperature of 120–175°C has to be applied. A literature method describes analogous reactions at room temperature in the presence of TBD as the catalyst in a toluene solution in quite a short reaction time [13]. The advantage of this method is that the reactions may be carried out at room temperature; the disadvantage is that there is a need for a solvent and a catalyst.

### EXPERIMENTAL

### General

The <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were obtained in a CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution on a Bruker DRX-500 spectrometer operating at 125.7 and 500.1 MHz, respectively. The <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H chemical shifts are referred to as TMS. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV-300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are downfield relative to 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. Mass spectrometry was performed on a ZAB-2SEQ instrument. The reactions were carried out in a 300-W CEM Discover focused microwave reactor equipped with a pressure controller applying 30–50 W under isothermal conditions.

## *General Procedure for the Preparation of* 2-(Dialkoxyphosphonyl)succinimide Derivatives **1** and **2**

A mixture of 2.0 mmol of maleimide (0.35 g of *N*-phenylmaleimide or 0.22 g of *N*-methylmaleimide) and 2.0 mmol of the >P(O)H species (0.28 mL of

diethyl phosphite or 0.18 mL of dimethyl phosphite) was heated at 175°C in a vial in the MW reactor for 2.5 h (NPMI) and for 3 h (NMMI). The water formed was removed in vacuo. Column chromatography (silica gel 3% methanol in dichloromethane) of the residue afforded the products (**1a**, **1b**, **2a**, and **2b**) as oils.

The following products were thus prepared:

2-(Diethoxyphosphonyl)-N-phenylsuccinimide (1a) [24]. Yield: 0.52 g (83%); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 20.0; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 16.45 (J = 5.8, CH<sub>3</sub>), 16.50 (J = 5.9, CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.9 (J = 4.0, C<sub>4</sub>), 39.7 (J = 141.4, C<sub>3</sub>), 63.4 (J = 6.7, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 63.9 (J = 6.6, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 126.5 (C<sub>2'</sub>)\*, 128.9 (C<sub>4'</sub>), 129.3 (C<sub>3'</sub>)\*, 131.8 (C<sub>1'</sub>), 171.4 (J = 5.7, C=O), 174.2 (J = 5.7, C=O), \*may be reversed; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.36 (t, J = 7.3, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.41 (t, J = 7.3, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.12–3.22 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.41–3.53 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 4.20–4.34 (m, 4H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.27–7.51 (m, 5H, Ar); [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 312.1006, C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>P requires 312.1001.

2- (Dimethoxyphosphonyl)-N-phenylsuccinimide (**1b**). Yield: 0.46 g (81%); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 22.7; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 30.8 (J = 3.9, C<sub>4</sub>), 39.4 (J = 143.0, C<sub>3</sub>), 53.6 (J = 6.8, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 54.5 (J = 6.6, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 126.6 (C<sub>2'</sub>)\*, 129.1 (C<sub>4'</sub>), 129.4 (C<sub>3'</sub>)\*, 131.7 (C<sub>1'</sub>), 171.3 (J = 5.4, C=O), 174.0 (J = 6.2, C=O), \*may be reversed; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 3.10–3.27 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.43–3.56 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 3.87 (J = 10.0, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.91 (J = 10.8, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.27–7.51 (m, 5H, Ar); [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 284.0681, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>P requires 284.0688.

2- (Diethoxyphosphonyl) - N-methylsuccinimide (2a). Yield: 0.47 g (95%); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 20.1; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 16.58 (J = 5.9, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 16.62 (J = 5.8, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 30.9 (J = 3.8, C<sub>4</sub>), 39.7 (J = 143.2, C<sub>3</sub>), 63.3 (J = 6.7, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 63.7 (J = 6.6, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 172.4 (J = 5.1, C=O, 175.2 (J = 6.2, C=O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.36 (t, J = 7.0, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38 (t, J = 7.0, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.97–3.05 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.03 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.25–3.38 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 4.17–4.28 (m, 4H, OCH<sub>2</sub>); [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 250.0843, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>P requires 250.0844.

2- (Dimethoxyphosphonyl)-N-methylsuccinimide (2b). Yield: 0.31 g (71%); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 20.7; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 25.4 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 30.4 (J = 3.8, C<sub>4</sub>), 38.8 (J = 144.7, C<sub>3</sub>), 53.4 (J = 6.8, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 54.2 (J = 6.6, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 171.9 (J = 5.1, C=O), 174.8 (J = 6.7, C=O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.94–2.98 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.01 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.29–3.42 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 3.84 (J = 11.0, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.87 (J = 10.9, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>);  $[M + H]_{found}^+ = 222.0531$ , C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>P requires 222.0531.

# 3-(*Ethyl phenylphosphinyl*)succinimide *Derivatives* **3** and **4**

These compounds were prepared similarly using the same amount of maleimide with 2.0 mmol (0.30 mL) of ethyl phenylphosphonate. The products were obtained as oils.

3-(Ethylphenylphosphinyl)-N-phenylsuccinimide (3). Yield: 0.63 g (92%); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 35.1 (51%) and 35.5 (49%); for the two isomers: <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $(CDCl_3) \delta$ : 16.61 and 16.70  $(CH_2CH_3)$ , 30.3 (J = 1.8)and 30.5 (J = 2.8) (C<sub>4</sub>), 42.6 (J = 92.7) and 43.3 (J = 92.5) (C<sub>3</sub>), 62.56 (J = 5.7) and 62.64 (J = 6.2)(OCH<sub>2</sub>), 126.5 and 126.7 ( $C_{3'}$ )<sup>a</sup>, 129.0 ( $C_{4'}$ ), 129.05 (J = 11.5) and 129.11 (J = 9.9)  $(C_{3''})^{b}$ , 129.3 and 129.4 ( $C_{2'}$ )<sup>a</sup>, 131.7 and 131.9 ( $C_{1'}$ ), 132.7 (J = 10.2)  $(C_{2''})^{b}$ , 133.6 (J = 2.9) and 133.7 (J = 2.8) (C<sub>4''</sub>), 171.7 (J = 2.6) and 171.9 (J = 5.5) (C=O), 173.9 (J = 4.6) and 174.2 (J = 4.2) (C=O) <sup>a,b</sup>may be reversed,  $C_{1'}$ ,  $C_{2'}$ ,  $C_{3'}$ , and  $C_{4'}$  refer to the corresponding carbon atoms of the N-phenyl ring, whereas  $C_{2''}$ ,  $C_{3''}$ , and  $C_{4''}$  refer to the respective carbon atoms of the *P*-phenyl ring; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.36 (t, J = 7.1) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.42 (t, J = 7.1) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) total intensity 3H, 2.98-3.37 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.50-3.73 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 4.00-4.34 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.98-7.94 (m, 10H, Ar);  $[M + H]_{found}^+ = 344.1045$ ,  $C_{18}H_{19}NO_4P$ requires 344.1052.

3-(Ethylphenylphosphinyl)-N-methylsuccinimide (**4**). Yield: 0.45 g (80%); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 35.60 (51%) and 35.63 (49%); for the two isomers:  ${}^{13}C$ NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 16.46 and 16.53 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.2 and 25.4 (N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.9 (J = 2.2) and 30.2 (J =2.2) (C<sub>4</sub>), 42.4 (J = 94.9) and 42.8 (J = 94.3) (C<sub>3</sub>), 62.2 (J = 6.2) and 62.5 (J = 6.4) (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 128.92 (J = 13.4) and 128.94 (J = 13.2)  $(C_{3''})^*$ , 132.37 (J = 13.2)10.2) and 132.41 (J = 10.0) ( $C_{2''}$ )\*, 133.4 (J = 2.8) and 133.5 (J = 2.9) (C<sub>4"</sub>), 172.5 (broad, d, J = 5.3) (C=O), 174.9 (J = 4.9) and 175.0 (J = 5.0) (C=O) \*tentative assignment,  $C_{2''}$ ,  $C_{3''}$ , and  $C_{4''}$  refer to the corresponding carbon atoms of the *P*-phenyl ring; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.33 (t, J = 7.1) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.39 (t, J = 7.0) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) total intensity 3H, 2.72–3.15 (m, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 2.85 (s, NCH<sub>3</sub>), and 3.00 (s, NCH<sub>3</sub>) overlapped, total intensity 5H, 3.35-3.55 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 3.99–4.30 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.49–7.90 (m, 5H, Ar);  $[M + H]_{found}^+ = 282.0898$ ,  $C_{13}H_{17}NO_4P$  requires 282.0895.

# 3-(Diphenylphosphinoyl)succinimide Derivatives **5** and **6**

A mixture of 2.0 mmol of maleimide (0.35 g of *N*-phenylmaleimide or 0.22 g of *N*-methylmaleimide) and 2.0 mmol (0.40 g) of diphenylphosphine oxide in 3 mL of acetonitrile was heated at  $120^{\circ}$ C in a vial in the MW reactor for 3 h. The workup was similar as mentioned above. Yield: 0.75 g (97%) of compound **5** and 0.61 g (98%) of compound **6**, both as white crystals.

3-(*Diphenylphosphinoyl*) - *N*-phenylsuccinimide (5). mp: 132–134°C, mp [12,14]: 134–136°C; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 30.4,  $\delta_P$  [25,14]: 31.2; [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 376.0934, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>P requires 376.0922.

3- (Diphenylphosphinoyl) -N-methylsuccinimide (6). mp: 164°C; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 30.4; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 25.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.1 ( $J = 2.0, C_4$ ), 42.6 ( $J = 63.1, C_3$ ), 128.9 ( $J = 12.4, C_{3'}$ )<sup>a</sup>, 129.2 ( $J = 12.4, C_{3''}$ )<sup>a</sup>, 130.8 ( $J = 108.7, C_{1'}$ )<sup>b</sup>, 130.9 ( $J = 107.3, C_{1''}$ )<sup>b</sup>, 131.6 ( $J = 20.4, C_{2'}$ )<sup>a</sup>, 131.7 ( $J = 20.2, C_{2''}$ )<sup>a</sup>, 132.9 ( $J = 2.7, C_{4'}$ )<sup>c</sup>, 132.9 ( $J = 2.7, C_{4''}$ )<sup>c</sup>, 173.0 (J = 3.6, C=0), 174.9 (J = 4.3, C=0), <sup>a</sup>tentative assignment, <sup>b,c</sup>may be reversed; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.83 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.88–3.22 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.91–4.00 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 7.47–7.96 (m, 10H, ArH); [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 314.0946, C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>P requires 314.0946.

### 2-(Diethoxyphosphonyl)succinanhydride (7)

A mixture of 6.0 mmol (0.60 g) of maleic anhydride and 6.0 mmol (0.78 mL) of diethyl phosphite was heated at 120°C in a vial in the MW reactor for 3 h. The water formed was removed in vacuo. Column chromatography (silica gel, 3% methanol in dichloromethane) of the residue afforded 0.69 g (49%) of adduct **7** as an oil. <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 21.8; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 16.56 (J = 6.1, CH<sub>3</sub>), 16.59 (J = 6.0, CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.6 (J = 4.4, C<sub>4</sub>), 41.4 (J = 131.1, C<sub>3</sub>), 64.2 (J = 2.7, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 64.3 (J = 2.9, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 171.5 (J = 5.0, C=O), 175.4 (J = 19.2, C=O); 1H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.33 (t, J = 7.0, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.34 (t, J = 7.0, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.76–3.12 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.45–3.58 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 4.13–4.23 (m, 4H, OCH<sub>2</sub>); [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 237.0533, C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P requires 237.0528.

# 3-(Diphenylphosphinoyl)succinanhydride (8)

A mixture of 6.0 mmol (0.60 g) of maleic anhydride and 6.0 mmol (1.2 g) of diphenylphosphine oxide in 3 mL of acetonitrile was heated at  $120^{\circ}$ C in a vial in the MW reactor for 3 h. The workup was similar as mentioned above. Yield: 1.2 g (66%) of compound **8** as a dense oil. <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 34.6; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 31.1 (C<sub>4</sub>), 44.4 (J = 59.8, C<sub>3</sub>), 128.9 (J = 12.0, C<sub>3</sub><sup>\*</sup> and C<sub>3</sub><sup>\*</sup>), 130.8 (J = 9.7, C<sub>2</sub>')\*, 130.9 (J = 88.3, C<sub>1</sub>' and C<sub>1</sub>"), 131.3 (J = 9.7, C<sub>2</sub>")\*, 132.3 (J = 2.8, C<sub>4</sub>'), 132.5 (J = 2.9, C<sub>4</sub>"), 168.2 (J = 2.9, C=O), 171.1 (J = 14.7, C=O), \*tentative assignments regarding the C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>3</sub> carbon atoms of the phenyl rings; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.78–2.90 and 3.22–3.32 (m, 2H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>), 3.99–4.17 (m, 1H, C(3)H), 7.45–7.90 (m, 10H, Ar); [M + H]<sup>+</sup><sub>found</sub> = 301.0610, C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>P requires 301.0630.

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