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REACTION OF CYCLIC SULFATES WITH PHOSPHINES

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ABSTRACT : In their reactions with phosphines, cyclic sulfates 9, 10, 11, and 12 afforded corresponding olefins by way of phosphonium sulfate salts whereas sugar cyclic sulfates 21 and 22 gave anhydrosugar 23.

Preparation of the cyclic sulfate and its reaction with nucleophiles have been known for a long time,¹ especially in the field of carbohydrate chemistry.² Recent works by Sharpless *et. al.* have provided an easier access to cyclic sulfates and have shown their usefulness in organic synthesis.³ Our initial purpose of the present work was the conversion of the vicinal diol to the olefin employing the cyclic sulfate of the diol. Olefin synthesis by deoxygenation of diols is an important transformation in organic synthesis. A variety of approaches have been developed for the regio- and stereospecific deoxygenation of vicinal diols⁴ since the

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discovery of Corey-Winter reaction.⁵ In our working hypothesis, we anticipated as depicted in the Scheme1. Thus, the first step is the nucleophilic displacement of the cyclic sulfate 1 by a phosphine. Then, the resulting internal salt 2 might cyclize to an unprecedented six-membered heterocycle 3 which might further decompose to an olefin 4, sulfur trioxide, and a phosphine oxide.



Scheme 1

Reaction of dimethyl *meso*-tartrate cyclic sulfate (9) with PPh₃ at 110°C in xylene gave indeed the expected *trans*-olefin 14 in 45% yield. Reaction of cyclic sulfate 10 with PPh₃ at 110°C in xylene also afforded expected *cis*-ethyl cinnamate(17) in 30% yield. On the other hand, treatment of dimethyl L-tartrate 2,3-cyclic sulfate (11) with PPh₃ in xylene, acetonitrile, or methylene chloride did not provide the expected *cis*-olefin 18 but afforded the *trans*-olefin 14. Cyclic sulfate 12 under the similar condition also gave *trans*-olefin 15 as shown in Table 1.

The unexpected *trans* double bond in the products obtained from dialkyl L-tartrate 2,3-cyclic sulfates is probably formed by way of *threo* salt 2 which might be produced by the epimerization of the initially formed *erythro* salt 6 as shown in

Cyclic		Product	Reaction Condition		
Sulfate	Phosphine		Solvent ^a	Temp.,°C	Y leid,%°
9	PPh ₃	14	xylene	110	45
10	PPh_3	17	xylene	110	30
11	PPh ₃	14	xylene	110	36
11	PPh ₃	14	CH ₃ CN	reflux	46
12	PPh ₃	15	xylene	110	46
10	PMe ₃	19	THF	0 or r.t.	87
11	PMe ₃	20	THF	$0 \rightarrow r.t.$	94
21	PPh ₃	23	xylene	70	24
21	PMe ₃	24	THF	30	89
22	PPh ₃	23	xylene	70	43

Table 1. Reactions of Cyclic Sulfates with Phosphines

"Water or methanol in parentheses indicates its presence in a small amount in the solvent.

^bThe yields are isolated ones.

Scheme 1. Salts 2 and 6 would be in rapid equilibrium through enolization since they have very acidic protons. The pathway to fumarate 4 ($R^1=CO_2R$) from *threo* salt 2 by way of a cyclic intermediate 3 containing *trans*-1,2-substituents would be energetically more favorable than the pathway to maleate 8($R^1=CO_2R$) from *erythro* salt 6 by way of 7 containing *cis*-1,2-substituents. The low yields of olefins are partly attributed to the formation of insoluble phosphonium sulfate salts during reaction. Prolonged reaction time, higher reaction temperature, or reaction in different solvents did not improve the yield of olefins.

Although there is no direct evidence for the existence of the heterocyclic intermediates 3 and 7, the salts 2 and 6 were isolated and characterized by NMR.



Thus, the reaction of cyclic sulfate 10 with PMe₃ at 0°C or room temperature in THF afforded salt 19 as a white solid in 87% yield.⁶ ¹H NMR spectrum of 19 clearly showed a doublet(${}^{2}J_{P,H}=14.5Hz$) at 1.90ppm for ⁺PMe₃, a doublet of doublets($J_{2,3}=3.7Hz$, ${}^{2}J_{P,H}=19.5Hz$) at 4.61ppm for H-2, and a doublet of doublets($J_{2,3}=3.7Hz$, ${}^{3}J_{P,H}=3.1Hz$) at 5.18ppm for H-3. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 19 also showed characteristic signals for the phosphonium salt ; a doublet (${}^{1}J_{P,C}=53Hz$) at 6.7ppm for ⁺PMe₃, a doublet(${}^{1}J_{P,C}=51Hz$) at 42.9ppm for C-2, a doublet (${}^{2}J_{P,C}=4Hz$) at 72.6ppm for C-3, and a doublet(${}^{2}J_{P,C}=15Hz$) at 168.0ppm for C-1. The reaction of cyclic sulfate 11 with PMe₃ also afforded salt 20 in 94% yield.⁷ When salt 19 was heated to 110°C in DMSO, an equal amount of *trans*- and *cis*cinnamates 16 and 17 was produced in 40% yield. The fact that the mixture of *trans*- and *cis*-cinnamates was obtained in this reaction further confirmed the epimerization of the phosphonium salts as proposed in the reactions of cyclic sulfates 11 and 12 with PPh_3 . Salt 20 could be converted to olefin 14 as shown in Table 2. The present reaction, however, was not applicable to the cyclic sulfates of simple aliphatic diols. Thus, cyclic sulfates of cyclohexanediol and 4,5-octanediol did not react with phosphines whereas the reaction of 1,2-dodecanediol cyclic sulfate with PMe₃ afforded the phosphonium sulfate salt but the salt could not be converted to the olefin.

Phosphonium	Product	Reactior	Viold 04	
Sulfate	Product	Solvent ^a	Temp.,°C	1 1010, %
19	16 + 17 (1:1)	DMSO	110	40
20	14	DMSO	110	20
24	23	xylene	65	38

Table 2. Pyrolysis of Phosphonium Sulfate Salts

*Water in parentheses indicates its presence in a small amount in the solvent. ^bThe yields are isolated ones.

On the other hand, the reaction of sugar cyclic sulfate 21 with PPh₃ or PBu₃ in xylene at 70°C gave unexpected anhydro sugar 23^8 in 24% yield. Treatment of 21 with PMe₃ in THF at 30°C afforded salt 24^9 in 89% yield. Upon warming, the salt 24 was converted to anhydrosugar 23 in 38% yield. In the reaction of sugar cyclic sulfate 22 with PMe₃ in THF, the intermediate salt could not be isolated but anhydrosugar 23 was also obtained. A plausible mechanism for the formation of 23 can be suggested as depicted in Scheme 2. Thus, the first two steps of the reaction would be same as those of other cyclic sulfates to afforded cyclic intermediate 26 by way of phosphonium sulfate 25. In the third step, the benzyloxy group at C-3 of 26 might participate in extrusion of SO_2 and phosphine oxide to give oxonium alkoxide 27 which might be readily converted to 23 and benzyl alcohol by hydrolysis. Although detection of SO_2 was not attempted, phosphine oxide and benzyl alcohol were isolated from the reaction mixture. The indirect evidence for the generation of SO_2 came from the fact that the reaction



Scheme 2

mixtures of cyclic sulfates 9-12 with phosphines were very acidic due to SO_3 whereas those of cyclic sulfates 21 and 22 with phosphines were almost neutral probably because volatile and insoluble SO_2 readily escaped from the reaction mixture.

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- 6. Compound 19: ¹H NMR(300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81(t, J=7.5Hz, 3H), 1.90(d, ²J_{P,H}=14.5Hz, 9H), 3.78-4.02(m, 2H), 4.61(dd, J=3.7Hz, ²J_{P,H}=19.5Hz, 1H), 5.18(dd, J=3.7Hz, ³J_{P,H}=3.1Hz, 1H), 7.4(brs, 5H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃) δ 6.7(d, ¹J_{P,C}=53Hz), 13.5, 42.9(d, ¹J_{P,C}=51Hz), 60.5, 72.6(d, ²J_{P,C}=4Hz), 129.1, 129.3, 129.5, 129.6, 130.9, 131.0, 168.0(d, ²J_{P,C}=15Hz).
- ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 20 indicated that a mixture of diastereomeric salts was produced.
- Compound 23: [α]_D²⁴ +27.4°(c 0.05, H₂O), lit.¹⁰ [α]_D²⁰ +29°(c, 3.2, H₂O);
 ¹H NMR(300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.33(s, 3H), 1.51(s, 3H), 2.45(brs, 1H),
 3.47(dd, 1H), 3.93(dd, 1H), 4.24-4.31(m, 1H), 4.50(d, J=3.9Hz, 1H),
 4.62(d, J=3.6Hz, 1H), 4.77(t, 1H), 5.93(d, J=3.6Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 26.7, 27.4, 72.4, 72.5, 82.4, 85.1, 85.5, 107.0, 113.1.
- Compound 24: ¹H NMR(300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.31(s, 3H), 1.47(s, 3H), 1.55(d, ²J_{PH}=12.8Hz, 3H), 1.84(d, ²J_{PH}=14.3Hz, 6H), 2.55(m,1H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 4.24(d, J=3.6Hz,1H), 4.59(ABq, 2H), 4.61(d, J=3.6Hz, 1H), 4.73(t, 1H), 4.95(m, 1H), 5.92(d, J=3.6Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.35(m, 5H).
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