Studies on Anticoccidial Agents. III. Selective Esterification and Acyl Transfer in α^4 -Norpyridoxol

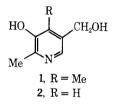
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Acyl and aroyl substituents attached to the ring hydroxyl group of α^4 -norpyridoxol have been found to transfer to the side-chain hydroxyl at the α^5 position. This intermolecular rearrangement takes place on heating 3-O-acyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol in pyridine. The mechanism of this rearrangement has been studied and could be explained by a two-stage intermolecular transesterification via the $3,\alpha^5$ diester. Some α^5 aromatic esters have also been prepared by selective hydrolysis of 3-O-acetyl- α^5 -O-aroyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol.

4-Deoxypyridoxol (1) and α^4 -norpyridoxol (2) have been shown to exhibit coccidiostatic effects and the latter compound was found to be the more desirable drug.^{1,2} In the



present study, the selective esterification of 2 has been examined in order to obtain derivatives for evaluation as potential anticoccidial agents. Perez-Medina et al.³ prepared **5a** hydrochloride from 2 by refluxing in acetyl chloride. We have prepared a series of diesters 5 by treating 2 with excess acid chloride or anhydride in pyridine.

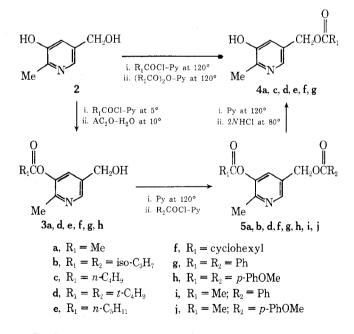
We obtained 3-O-monoesters 3 by treating 2 with 1 equiv of an acid chloride at 5°. 3-O-Acetoxy-5-hydroxymethyl-2methylpyridine (3a) was prepared by treating 2 with acetic anhydride in water under vigorous stirring. These monoesters gave a negative ferric chloride test, indicating substitution of the phenolic hydroxyl group.

In an attempt to obtain 3-hexanoyloxy-5-hydroxymethyl-2-methylpyridine, we treated 2 with 1 mol of *n*hexanoic anhydride in pyridine at about 120° for 10 hr. The resulting monohexanoate was not the same as the product obtained from 2 and *n*-hexanoyl chloride in pyridine under cooling and gave a positive ferric chloride test, indicating the presence of a phenolic hydroxyl group as could be expected from the rearranged product (4). The ir spectrum of the monoester 4e on comparison with that of 3-O-monohexanoate 3e confirmed the structural assignment. The carbonyl absorption band of the ring-substituted hexanoyl group appeared at 1770 cm⁻¹ while that of the α^5 -O-hexanoyl group appeared at 1730 cm⁻¹. The α^5 -Ohexanoate 4e was in fact obtained by heating a pyridine solution of the hydrochloride of 3-O-*n*-hexanoate 3e.

Analogous rearrangements were shown to occur in other aliphatic, alicyclic, and aromatic esters, namely 3-O-acetyl, 3-O-valeryl, 3-O-pivaloyl, 3-O-cyclohexanecarbonyl, and 3-O-benzoyl esters of 2. The sterically hindered pivaloyl moiety in the 3-O-pivaloate 3d migrated more slowly than the unhindered hexanoyl function in 3-O-hexanoate 3e. The transfer of 3-O-benzoate 3g was effected only under the prolonged reaction conditions. The reason for this difficulty for rearrangement may be related to the greater stability of the aromatic esters as compared with the corresponding aliphatic esters.

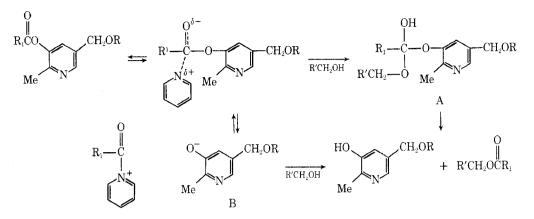
Korytnyk et al.⁴⁻⁶ observed the intramolecular acyl rearrangement via an ortho acid in the synthesis of α^4 -O-acylpyridoxols. Now we observed the acyl transfer in the synthesis of α^5 -O-acyl- α^4 -norpyridoxols.

To clarify the mechanism of these acyl rearrangements. we examined the behavior of 3-O-pivaloate 3d in pyridine at about 120°. Heating a pyridine solution of 3d at 120° for 10 hr produced $3, \alpha^5$ -O-pivaloate 5d, α^5 -O-pivaloate 4d, and **2** together with some starting material (3d). The $3,\alpha^5$ -Opivaloate hydrochloride (5d) obtained was again heated in pyridine at 120° for 10 hr, which resulted in partial hydrolysis to α^5 -O-pivaloate 4d (12.8%). When the diester hydrochloride (5d) was heated in the presence of 2 under the same conditions, the transfer of the 3-O-pivaloyl group of 5d to the 5-hydroxymethyl group of 2 was very effective (58.3%). On the other hand, heating the pyridine solution of the α^5 -O-pivaloate 4d in the absence as well as in the presence of 2 at 120° for 10 hr afforded only unchanged starting material. Thus the chemical evidences described above have shown that the 3-O-acyl transfer to the α^5 -O position can be explained by a two-stage intermolecular transesterification via the $3.\alpha^5$ -O-diester 5.



In the acyl shift from 3 to α^5 , participation of pyridine molecule precedes an attack of the α^5 -hydroxyl on the 3-O-ester carbonyl, since the transfer has not been observed in toluene but in pyridine as well as in toluene containing a trace of pyridine at 120° for 10 hr. So the acyl transfer may proceed by way of the ortho acid (A) or the pyridinium salt (B).

In addition α^5 -O-monoaromatic esters (4) have been obtained by the interaction of 3-O-acetate **3a** with aroyl chlorides to produce the corresponding esters (5), followed by selective hydrolysis with 2 N HCl. The α^5 -O-acetate **4a** was



also prepared from 2 via 5-bromomethyl-3-hydroxy-2methylpyridine under conditions essentially identical with those applied to the synthesis of 5-acetoxymethyl-3-hydroxy-2,4-dimethylpyridine.⁷ All the esters prepared were found to be active against *Eimeria acervulina*, and 3-Omonoacetate **3a** and α^5 -O-monoacetate **4a** have almost the same activity as **2** HCl.

Experimental Section

Melting points are uncorrected. Ir spectra were determined using a Perkin-Elmer 221 and Jasco IRA-2 spectrometers. NMR spectra were taken on a Varian A-60 spectrometer using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Typical experimental procedures are described for the preparation of the ester derivatives.

 $3,\alpha^5$ -O-Dibenzoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol. 2 HCl (0.9 g, 5.13 mmol) was dissolved in pyridine (5 ml) and cooled at 5° and benzoyl chloride (1.5 g, 10.66 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature overnight, poured into water, and extracted with chloroform. The extract was dried and the solvent was removed, leaving a crystalline material which was recrystallized from ethyl acetate-*n*-hexane to give 1.6 g (90%) of the dibenzoate: mp 85-86°; ir (Nujol) 1738, 1722 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₁₇NO₄: C, 72.61; H, 4.93; N, 4.03. Found: C, 72.63; H, 4.83; N, 4.23.

 $3, \alpha^5$ -O-Dianisoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (prepared by the above procedure) had mp 135–136° from ethyl acetate–*n*-hexane (92% yield): ir (Nujol) 1730, 1715 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁NO₆: C, 67.80; H, 5.20; N, 3.44. Found: C, 67.75; H, 5.15; N, 3.43.

 $3,\alpha^5$ -O-Diisobutyryl- α^4 -norpyridoxol hydrochloride (prepared by the above procedure) had mp 134–136° from ethanolethyl acetate (95% yield): ir (Nujol) 1762, 1738 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{22}$ ClNO₄: C, 57.10; H, 6.97; N, 4.43; Cl, 11.25. Found: C, 57.14; H, 6.94; N, 4.45; Cl, 11.27.

3-O-Acetyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol Hydrochloride (3a). An aqueous solution (15 ml) of 2 HCl (3.5 g) was neutralized with NaHCO₃ and to this solution acetic anhydride (2.5 g) was added at 15° under vigorous stirring. After addition was completed, the solution was stirred for 20 min and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated to a small volume and addition of ethanol containing 15% hydrogen chloride afforded 3a (3.4 g, 86.8%): mp 134-135°; ir (Nujol) 3300, 1786 cm⁻¹; NMR (D₂O) 2.52 (s, 3, OCOMe), 2.72 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 4.91 (s, 2, C₅ CH₂OH), 8.42 (d, 1, J = 2.0 Hz, C₄ H), 8.61 ppm (d, 1, J = 2.0 Hz, C₆ H).

Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_{12}ClNO_3$: C, 49.61; H, 5.56; N, 6.48. Found: C, 49.82; H, 5.62; N, 6.58.

3-O-Cyclohexanecarbonyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol Hydrochloride (3f). A solution of cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride (1.47 g, 10 mmol) in pyridine (10 ml) was added dropwise in 15 min at 5° into a solution of 2 HCl (1.76 g, 10 mmol) in pyridine (20 ml). The mixture was stirred at 10° for 16 hr, diluted with ice-water, and extracted with chloroform. The extract was washed with water and dried and the solvent was removed to leave an oil, which was again dissolved in ethyl acetate, and addition of ethanol containing 15% hydrogen chloride yielded 1.9 g (66.7%) of **3f**: mp 148–150°; ir (Nujol) 3250, 1770 cm⁻¹; NMR (CF₃COOH) 7.6–8.9 (m, 11), 7.18 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 4.84 (s, 2, CH₂OH), 1.54 (broad s, 1, C₄ H), 1.28 (broad s, 1, C₆ H).

Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{20}$ ClNO₃: C, 58.75; H, 7.05; N, 4.90; Cl, 12.40. Found: C, 59.00; H, 7.10; N, 4.96; Cl, 12.64.

The following four derivatives were prepared by the above procedure.

3-O-n-Hexanoyl-\alpha^4-norpyridoxol hydrochloride (3e) had mp 127–129° on recrystallization from ethanol-ethyl acetate (59.1%); ir (Nujol) 3260, 1770 cm⁻¹; NMR (D₂O) 0.93 (t, 3, J = 6Hz), 1.2–2.0 (m, 6), 2.67 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 2.83 (t, 3, J = 7.5 Hz), 4.90 (s, 2, C₅ CH₂OH), 8.38 (d, 1, J = 1.5 Hz, C₄ H), 8.63 ppm (d, 1, J =1.5 Hz, C₆ H).

Anal. Čalcd for C₁₃H₂₀ClNO₃: C, 57.00; H, 7.31; N, 5.12; Cl, 12.97. Found: C, 57.28; H, 7.40; N, 5.32; Cl, 12.99.

3-O-Pivaloyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol hydrochloride (3d) had mp 162-163° as recrystallized from ethanol-ethyl acetate (64.0%); ir (Nujol) 3240, 1765 cm⁻¹; NMR (D₂O) 1.38 (s, 9, CMe₃), 2.68 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 4.88 (s, 2, C₅ CH₂OH), 8.38 (d, 1, J = 1.5 Hz, C₄ H), 8.63 ppm (d, 1, J = 1.5 Hz, C₆ H).

Anal. Ćalcd for $C_{12}H_{18}ClNO_3$: C, 55.50; H, 6.98; N, 5.38; Cl, 13.65. Found: C, 55.65; H, 7.08; N, 5.48; Cl, 13.57

3-O-Benzoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (3g) had mp 81-82° on recrystallization from ethyl acetate-*n*-hexane (86.5%); ir (Nujol) 3180, 1740 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}NO_3$: C, 69.12; H, 5.38; N, 5.76. Found: C, 69.08; H, 5.36; N, 5.60.

3-O-p-Anisoyl-\alpha^4-norpyridoxol (3h) had mp 103–104° on recrystallization from ethyl acetate–*n*-hexane (81%); ir (Nujol) 3200, 1730 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅NO₄: C, 65.92; H, 5.53; N, 5.13. Found: C, 65.77; H, 5.50; N, 5.01.

 α^5 -O-Valeryl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (4c). A mixture of 2 HCl (0.88 g, 5 mmol) and *n*-valeryl chloride (0.66 g, 5.57 mmol) in pyridine (5 ml) was stirred at 120° for 20 hr, diluted with water, and extracted with chloroform. The extract was washed with water and dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvent was removed to leave an oily product, which gradually solidified. Recrystallization from ethyl acetate-*n*-hexane gave 4c (0.73 g, 65%): mp 114-115°; ir (Nujol) 2600, 2500, 1730 cm⁻¹; NMR (CDCl₃) 0.88 (t, 3, J = 6.0 Hz), 1.1-1.8 (m, 4), 2.35 (t, 2, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.59 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 5.09 (s, 2, C₅ CH₂), 7.26 (d, 1, J = 1.5 Hz, C₄ H), 8.03 ppm (d, 1, J = 1.5 Hz, C₆ H).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₇NO₃: C, 64.55; H, 7.68; N, 6.27. Found: C, 64.64; H, 7.68; N, 6.35.

 α^5 -O-Hexanoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (4e). To a solution of 2 HCl (0.88 g, 5 mmol) in pyridine (10 ml), *n*-hexanoic anhydride (1.07 g, 5 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at 120° for 10 hr and worked up as described above to give a crystalline residue, which was recrystallized from ethyl acetate-*n*-hexane to afford 4e (0.73 g, 61.3%): mp 111-112°; ir (Nujol) 2630, 2500, 1730 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₃: C, 65.80; H, 8.07; N, 5.90. Found: C, 65.79; H, 7.92; N, 5.82.

Rearrangement of 3-O-Pivaloyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (3d). A. A solution of 3-O-pivaloate 3d (1.6 g) in pyridine (6 ml) was stirred at 120° for 10 hr. After removal of pyridine, the residue was diluted with water, neutralized with aqueous NaHCO₃, and extracted with ethyl acetate. The resulting oil after evaporation of the solvent was chromatographed on dry silica gel, eluting with benzene-ethyl acetate (1:1).

The major product (0.48 g) was the starting material. The second product (0.38 g, oil) was identified as $3,\alpha^5$ -O-dipivaloyl- α^4 norpyridoxol (5d), which was converted into a hydrochloride: mp 142-143°; ir (Nujol) 1765, 1730 cm⁻¹; NMR (D₂O) 1.17 (s, 9), 1.37 (s, 9), 2.68 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 5.34 (s, 2, C₅ CH₂), 8.38 (d, 1, J = 2 Hz, C₄ H), 8.63 ppm (d, 1, J = 2 Hz, C₆ H).

Anal. Calcd for C17H26ClNO4: C, 59.30; H, 7.62; N, 4.07; Cl,

10.62. Found: C, 59.15; H, 7.60; N, 4.11; Cl, 10.54.

The third product (0.17 g) was α^5 -O-pivaloyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (4d), which was recrystallized from ethyl acetate-n-hexane: mp 170°; ir (Nujol) 2650, 1715 cm⁻¹; NMR (CDCl₃) 1.14 (s, 9), 2.56 (s, 3, C₂ Me), 5.05 (s, 2, C₅ CH₂), 7.21 (d, 1, J = 2 Hz, C₄ H), 7.98 ppm $(d, 1, J = 2 Hz, C_6 H).$

Anal. Calcd for C12H17NO3: C, 64.55; H, 7.68; N, 6.27. Found: C, 64.80: H. 7.80: N. 6.46.

The aqueous layer after extraction with ethyl acetate was concentrated and again extracted with a large quantity of hot ethyl acetate. The extract was dried and concentrated and addition of anhydrous ethanol-HCl gave 2 HCl (0.047 g).

B. A solution of 3d (1.0 g) in dry toluene (15 ml) containing pyridine (0.3 ml) was heated at 120° for 10 hr and worked up as described above to give 3d (0.89 g) and 5d (0.015 g).

Conversion of $3,\alpha^5$ -O-Dipivaloate (5d) to α^5 -O-Pivaloate (4d) in Pyridine. A. A solution of $3,\alpha^5$ -O-dipivaloate hydrochloride (5d, 0.300 g) in pyridine (1.5 ml) was stirred at 120° for 10 hr. diluted with water, and extracted with chloroform. The extract was washed with water and dried and the solvent was removed to leave a semisolid. Chromatography on silica gel with benzeneethyl acetate (1:1) gave the starting material (5d, 0.234 g) and α^5 -*O*-pivaloate (4d, 0.025 g). **B**. A solution of $3, \alpha^5$ -*O*-dipivaloate hydrochloride (5d, 0.69 g, 2

mmol) and 2 (0.280 g, 2 mmol) in pyridine (3 ml) was stirred at 120° for 10 hr and woked up as described above. The starting material (0.34 g) and α^5 -O-pivaloate 4d (0.26 g), mp 169–170°, were obtained.

Heating of α^5 -O-Pivaloate (4d) with α^4 -Norpyridoxol in Pyridine. A solution of 4d (0.250 g) and 2 HCl (0.192 g) in pyridine (5 ml) was heated at 120° for 10 hr and the solvent was removed, diluted with water, neutralized with aqueous NaHCO3, and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract, after being dried over Na_2SO_4 , was concentrated and addition of *n*-hexane gave 4d (0.23) g). The aqueous layer was again extracted with a large quantity of hot ethyl acetate. The extract was concentrated and addition of anhydrous ethanol-HCl gave 2 HCl (0.187 g).

Rearrangement of 3-O-Cyclohexanecarbonyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (3f). A solution of 3f (0.47 g) in pyridine (1.5 ml) was heated at 120° for 10 hr and worked up as described above. The crystalline residue obtained was chromatographed on a dry silica gel column. Elution with benzene-ethyl acetate (1:1) gave $3, \alpha^5 \cdot O$ -dicyclohexanecarboxylate **5f** (0.12 g) and α^5 -O-cyclohexanecarboxylate 4f (0.22 g).

5f was an oil, which was converted to a hydrochloride: mp 150-151°; ir (Nujol) 1765, 1735 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{30}ClNO_4$: C, 63.73; H, 7.68; N, 3.54; Cl, 8.95. Found: C, 63.91; H, 7.67; N, 3.75; Cl, 8.99. 4f melted at 175–177°; ir (Nujol) 2650, 1720 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C14H19NO3: C, 67.44; H, 7.68; N, 5.62. Found: C, 67.51; H, 7.77; N, 5.78.

When the reaction was continued for 22 hr, the only product was α^5 -O-cyclohexanecarboxylate 4f.

 α^5 -O-Acetyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (4a). A. 3-O-Acetate hydrochloride (3a, 0.2 g) was converted to α^5 -O-acetate 4a (0.1 g) in pyridine (1 ml) under heating at 120° for 10 hr: mp 170–172°; ir (Nujol) 2634, 2500, 1757 cm⁻¹; NMR (DMF-d₇) 2.08 (s, 3, OAc), 2.40 (s, 3, C_2 Me), 5.08 (s, 2, CH₂OAc), 7.21 (d, 1, J = 2.0 Hz, C_4 H), 8.00 (d, $1, J = 2.0 \text{ Hz}, C_6 \text{ H}).$

Anal. Calcd for C9H11NO3: C, 59.66; H, 6.12; N, 7.73. Found: C, 59.73; H, 6.03; N, 7.78.

B. 2 HCl (2.0 g) was dissolved in 47% hydrobromic acid and the solution was refluxed for 30 min, cooled, and made alkaline with aqueous NaHCO3 to give 5-bromomethyl-3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridine (1.2 g), mp 282-285° dec.

Anal. Calcd for C₇H₈BrNO: C, 41.60; H, 3.99; N, 6.93; Br, 39.58. Found: C, 41.70; H, 4.05; N, 6.89; Br, 39.70.

A mixture of the bromomethyl compound (1.2 g), AgOAc (3.5 g), and KOAc (22 g) in AcOH (80 ml) was stirred at 130° for 1.5 hr. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with water, dried, and concentrated into a small volume to afford 4a (0.2 g), mp 170-172°

3-O-Acetyl- α^5 -O-benzoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (5i). To a solution of 3-O-acetate 3a (1.1 g) in pyridine (10 ml), benzoyl chloride (0.8 g) was added dropwise at 5°. The mixture was diluted with icewater and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated to dryness to give an oil. Crystallization from ethyl acetate-n-hexane afforded 5i (1.37 g): mp 57°; ir (Nujol) 1760, 1720 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅NO₄: C, 67.36; H, 5.30; N, 4.91. Found: C, 67.36; H. 5.17; N. 4.82.

3-O-Acetyl- α^5 -O-anisoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (5j) was prepared by a similar procedure: mp 65–66°; ir (Nujol) 1765, 1705 cm⁻¹

Anal. Calcd for C17H17NO5: C, 64.75; H, 5.43; N, 4.44. Found: C, 64.65; H, 5.38; N, 4.29.

 α^5 -O-Benzoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol (4g). A. A solution of 5i (0.5 g) in 2 N HCl (25 ml) was stirred at 80° for 1 hr, cooled, and neutralized with aqueous NaHCO₃. A colorless product (0.2 g) separated. Recrystallization from ethanol gave 4g: mp 221-223°; ir (Nujol) $2500, 1720 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

Anal. Calcd for C14H13NO3: C, 69.12; H, 5.39; N, 5.76. Found: C, 69.18; H, 5.30; N, 5.65.

B. 3-O-Benzoate hydrochloride (3g, 0.5 g) was heated in pyridine at 120° (5 ml) for 60 hr and chromatographed on silica gel to give α^5 -O-benzoate 4g (0.085 g) together with $3, \alpha^5$ -O-dibenzoate 5g (0.070 g) and the starting material 3g (0.210 g).

 α^5 -O-Anisoyl- α^4 -norpyridoxol hydrochloride (4h) was prepared from 5j by the above procedure and isolated as a hydrochloride: mp 224–225° dec; ir (Nujol) 2500, 1715 cm⁻¹

Anal. Calcd for C15H16CINO4: C, 58.16; H, 5.20; N, 4.51; Cl, 11.44; Found: C, 58.09; H, 5.10; N, 4.40; Cl, 11.56.

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Registry No.-2 HCl, 3816-44-2; 3a, 54193-37-2; 3a HCl, 53054-35-6; 3d, 54193-38-3; 3d HCl, 54193-39-4; 3e HCl, 53123-11-8; 3f, 54293-21-9; 3f HCl, 54193-40-7; 3g, 53054-39-0; 3g HCl, 54193-41-8; 3h, 53054-40-3; 4a, 53054-46-9; 4c, 53054-48-1; 4d, 54193-42-9; 4e, 54193-43-0; 4f, 54193-44-1; 4g, 53054-52-7; 4h HCl, 53054-69-6; 5b HCl, 53054-23-2; 5d, 54193-45-2; 5d HCl, 54193-46-3; 5f, 53054-59-4; 5f HCl, 54193-47-4; 5g, 53054-72-1; 5h, 54193-48-5; 5i, 53054-56-1; 5j, 53054-57-2; benzoyl chloride, 98-88-4; anisoyl chloride, 100-07-2; isobutyryl chloride, 79-30-1; acetic anhydride, 108-24-7; cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride, 2719-27-9; hexanoyl chloride, 142-61-0; pivaloyl chloride, 3282-30-2; n-valeryl chloride, 638-29-9; n-hexanoic anhydride, 2051-49-2; 5-bromomethyl-3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridine, 54193-49-6.

References and Notes

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