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Efficient Bromination of Alkenes and Alkynes Using Potassium Bromide and Diacetoxy Iodobenzene

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Abstract: Bromination of alkenes and alkynes has efficiently been carried out at room temperature in short reaction times using KBr and diacetoxy iodobenzene in $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ (1:1) to prepare the corresponding *trans*-dibromo compounds in excellent yields.

Keywords: Alkene, alkyne, DIB, *trans*-dibromo compound

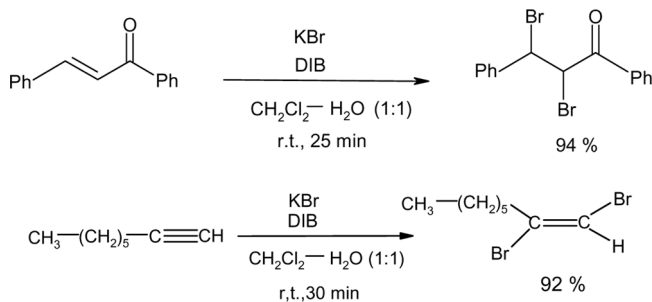
The bromination of alkenes and alkynes is an important transformation in organic synthesis.^[1] The protection and deprotection of double bonds via a bromination–debromination strategy can conveniently be utilized in synthetic routes.^[2] The bromine group can also easily be converted into other functionalities.^[1] Additionally, the brominated alkenes are useful precursors to organometallic reagents.^[3] The classical bromination involves the use of hazardous elemental bromine.^[1] To avoid this reagent, several other protocols for bromination have been discovered.^[4–10] However, the occurrence of side reactions, low selectivity, poor yields, and application of costly reagents are drawbacks in several methods. Here we report an efficient method for bromination of alkenes and alkynes.

In continuation of our work^[11–13] on the development of useful synthetic methodologies, we have observed that the bromination of alkenes

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Scheme 1. Bromination of alkenes and alkynes using KBr and diacetoxy iodobenzene.

and alkynes to the corresponding vicinal dibromo compounds can easily be carried out using KBr and diacetoxy iodobenzene (DIB) in CH₂Cl₂-H₂O (1:1) (Scheme 1).


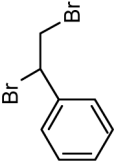
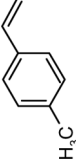
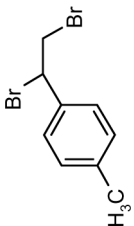
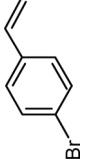
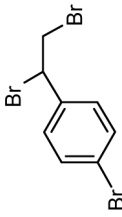
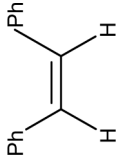
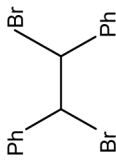
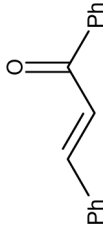
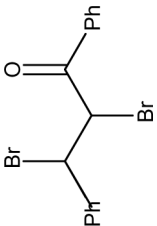
In recent years, hypervalent iodine reagents have gained much importance in organic synthesis because of their interesting activity, ready availability, and easy handling.^[14,15] Previously we applied DIB to the preparation of isoxazolines from activated alkenes by treatment with aldoximes.^[16] We have now discovered that this reagent in combination with KBr is highly effective for bromination of various alkenes and alkynes (Table 1). α,β -Unsaturated carbonyl compounds and cycloalkenes were also efficiently brominated.

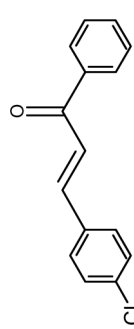
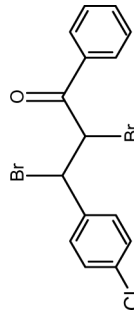
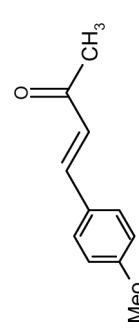
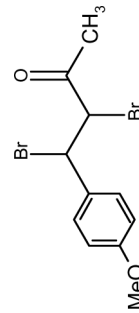
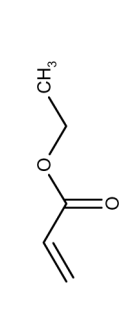
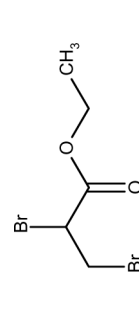
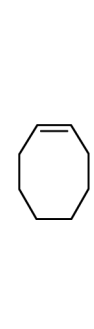
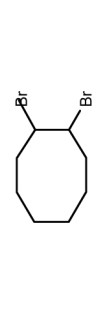
The conversion occurred at room temperature under mild reaction conditions. The reaction was complete within 15–30 min and the yields were excellent (92–98%). CH₂Cl₂-H₂O (1:1) was found to be a suitable medium for this conversion.

The bromination of alkenes and alkynes (except phenyl acetylene) produced solely the *trans*-vicinal dibromo compounds. Phenyl acetylene afforded the corresponding *trans*-(E)-dibromo derivative as the major product (84%) along with the *cis*-(Z)-dibromo compound in minor quantity (12%). The bromonium ion (Br⁺) generated in situ by the reaction of KBr and DIB reacts with the alkene or alkyne to form a cyclic bromonium ion intermediate, which is attacked by a bromide ion from the reverse side, forming selectively the *trans*-vicinal dibromo compound. No tetrabromo derivatives were obtained from alkynes.

In conclusion, we have developed a simple, novel, mild, and efficient method for high-yielding preparation of vicinal *trans*-dibromo compounds from alkenes and alkynes by treatment with a combination of KBr and DIB. The molecular bromine that is toxic can thus be avoided. A new synthetic utility of hypervalent iodine has also been disclosed.

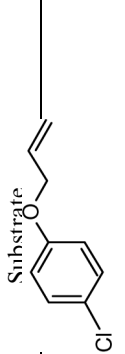
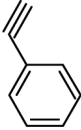
Table 1. Preparation of dibromo compounds from alkenes and alkynes using DIB and KBr

Entry	Substrate	Product ^a	Time (min)	Isolated yield (%)	Reference
1			15	97	9
2			15	98	9
3			15	96	—
4			15	98	6
5			25	94	9

6			25	95	—
7			25	96	—
8			20	93	—
9			15	97	7
10	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Br}$	15	94	9
11	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_5-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_5-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Br}$	15	93	9
12	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_{11}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_{11}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Br}$	15	95	—

(Continued)

Table 1. Continued

Entry	Substrate	Time (min)	Isolated yield (%)	Reference
13		15	96	—
14		30	84	9
15	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$	30	94	7
16	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_4-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$	30	93	—
17	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_5-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$	30	92	9

^aThe structures of the products were determined from spectral (¹H NMR and MS) and analytical data.

EXPERIMENTAL

General

A mixture of alkene or alkyne (0.5 mmol), KBr (1.5 mmol), and DIB (0.5 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 - H_2O (1:1) (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC). After completion, the organic layer was separated, washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution (3×5 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel, hexane-EtOAc) to obtain pure dibromo product.

The spectral (^1H NMR and MS) and analytical data of some representative dibromo compounds are given next.

Data

1,2-Dibromo-1-(4-bromo)-1-phenylethane (Table 1, entry 3)

White solid, mp 56 – 58°C . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 7.55 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.35 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 5.05 (dd, 1H, $J = 9.0$, 5.0 Hz), 4.04 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.0$, 5.0 Hz), 3.94 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.0$, 9.0 Hz); FABMS: m/z 363, 365, 367, 369 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{Br}_3$: C, 28.23; H, 2.06. Found: C, 27.87; H, 1.98.

2,3-Dibromo-1-phenyl-3-(4-chloro)-phenyl propane-1-one
(Table 1, entry 6)

White solid, mp 160 – 161°C . ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 8.06 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.80–7.30 (m, 7H), 5.71 (d, 1H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 5.57 (d, 1H, $J = 9.0$ Hz); FABMS: m/z 423, 425, 427, 429 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{OBr}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 44.94; H, 2.75. Found: C, 43.64; H, 2.67.

2,3-Dibromo-3-(4-methoxy)-phenyl-methyl propanoate
(Table 1, entry 7)

Viscous, ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 7.92 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.94 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 3.91 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H); FABMS: m/z 357, 359, 361 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{Br}_2$: C, 39.52; H, 3.59. Found: C, 38.49; H, 3.51.

2,3-Dibromo-ethyl propanoate (Table 1, entry 8)

Viscous, ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 4.36 (dd, 1H, $J = 10.0, 4.0$ Hz), 4.30 (q, 2H, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.92 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.0, 10.0$ Hz), 3.66 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.0, 4.0$ Hz), 1.36 (t, 3H, $J = 7.0$ Hz); FABMS: m/z 281, 283, 285 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2\text{Br}_2$: C, 23.25; H, 3.10. Found: C, 22.09; H, 3.16.

1,2-Dibromo-tetradecane (Table 1, entry 12)

Viscous, ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.84 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.0, 4.0$ Hz), 3.57 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.0, 10.0$ Hz), 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.64–1.20 (m, 20H), 0.88 (t, 3H, $J = 7.0$ Hz); FABMS: m/z 377, 379, 381 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{28}\text{Br}_2$: C, 47.46; H, 7.91. Found: C, 46.34; H, 7.84.

2,3-Dibromo-propyl-(4-chloro)-phenyl-ether (Table 1, entry 13)

Viscous, ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 7.24 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.85 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 3.85 (d, 2H, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 4.45–4.26 (m, 3H); FABMS: m/z 349, 351, 353, 355 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{OBr}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 33.08; H, 2.76. Found: C, 32.83; H, 2.82.

1,2-Dibromo-1-heptene (Table 1, entry 15)

Viscous, ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz): δ 6.39 (s, 1H), 2.60 (t, 2H, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.63–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.23 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t, 3H, $J = 7.0$ Hz); FABMS: m/z 277, 279, 281 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{Br}_2$: C, 33.07; H, 4.72. Found: C, 31.96; H, 4.66.

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