

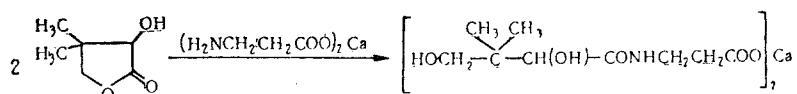
SYNTHESIS OF CALCIUM DL-PANTOTHENATE

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The calcium salt of β -alanine is prepared and used for the synthesis of calcium DL-pantothenate.

The synthesis of calcium DL-pantothenate is accomplished with almost quantitative yield by the reaction of the calcium salt of β -alanine with α -hydroxy- β,β -dimethyl- γ -butyrolactone [1]:



Calcium DL-pantothenate is precipitated from alcohol solution by acetone [2]. We prepared the calcium salt of β -alanine from β -alanine sulfate by treatment with calcium oxide in aqueous medium. β -Alanine sulfate is prepared by the hydrolysis of β -phthalimidopropionitrile.

EXPERIMENTAL

Calcium Salt of β -Alanine. A mixture of 50 g of β -phthalimidopropionitrile with mp 152–154°C and 160 g of 42% sulfuric acid was heated at 114–115° for 3 h. After cooling to 14–15° phthalic acid was filtered off and washed with 150 ml of water and the filtrate and water washings stirred with 50 g of calcium oxide. The calcium sulfate formed was separated and washed with 150 ml of water. Then the solution was stirred with a further 20 g of calcium oxide and heated until the ammonia evolution ceased, and the precipitate was again filtered off and washed with 20 ml of water. The solution was evaporated in vacuum to 1/20 volume, filtered from inorganic impurities with activated carbon, and evaporated to dryness. The yield was 21.9 g (80%).

Calcium DL-Pantothenate. A mixture of 250 ml of methanol, 33 g of α -hydroxy- β,β -dimethyl- γ -butyrolactone, and 25 g of the calcium salt of β -alanine was heated at 64–65° for 3 h. Then 5 g of activated carbon was added and the mixture was cooled to 20–25° over a half hour and filtered. The solid was washed with 50 ml of methanol and the filtrate and alcohol washings evaporated to $d = 0.98 \text{ g/cm}^3$. The residue was poured into acetone, taken in the ratio 8:1, and calcium DL-pantothenate was filtered off, washed with 100 ml of acetone, and dried in vacuum for 5 h at 50°. The yield was 54.0 g (98.1%). Found %: C 45.48; H 6.81; N 5.71. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{10}\text{Ca}$. Calculated %: C 45.35; H 6.77; N 5.88.

LITERATURE CITED

1. F. Kogan, R. V. Heinzelman, and D. T. Weisblat, J. Am. Chem. Soc., **79**, 3545 (1957).
2. J. J. Rogers, J. Am. Chem. Soc., **62**, 1784 (1940).