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Solid-State Condensation Reactions Between Aldehydes and 5,5-Dimethyl- 1,3-cyclohexanedione by Grinding at Room Temperature

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Abstract: An efficient and convenient approach to the synthesis of the two different products from aldehydes and 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione in the solid state by grinding is described. This method provides several advantages such as environmental friendliness, high yields, and simple workup procedure.

Keywords: Aldehydes, cyclohexanedione, grinding, solid state, synthesis

INTRODUCTION

The grinding method has increasingly been used in organic synthesis in recent years. Compared with traditional methods, many organic reactions occur more efficiently in the solid state than in solution and in many cases even more selectively, because molecules in the crystals are arranged tightly and regularly.^[1] Furthermore, the solid-state reaction has many advantages: little pollution, low cost, and simplicity in progress and handling. A large

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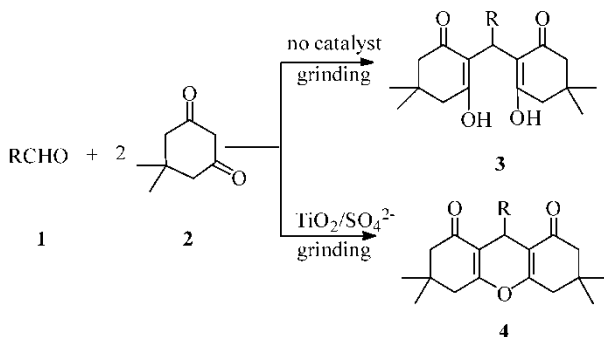
number of organic reactions can be carried out simply and in high yield under mild conditions by this method.^[2]

It has been reported that the reaction of aromatic aldehyde and 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione can obtain 2,2'-arylmethylene bis(3-hydroxy-5,5-dimethyl-2-cyclohexene-1-one) and 1, 8-dioxo-octahydroxanthene and their derivatives in many methods.^[3] However, no catalyst or the use of $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ solid superacid as the catalysts in the solid state for the synthesis of the 2,2'-arylmethylene bis(3-hydroxy-5,5-dimethyl-2-cyclohexene-1-one) or 1,8-dioxooctahydroxanthene and their derivatives have not been reported. In this article, we report a general and highly efficient route for the synthesis of these two products and their derivatives with no catalyst or using an inexpensive and commercially available $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ solid superacid as the catalyst. This is an efficient synthesis in solid state, which not only preserves the simplicity but also consistently gives the corresponding products in good to excellent yields (Scheme 1).

A series of examples illustrating this method for the synthesis **3** and **4** were studied. The reaction proceeded smoothly by grinding to give the corresponding products in good to excellent yields. The results are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2.

It was found that different products were obtained using no catalyst or $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ in the reaction (Scheme 1). The reaction in absence of catalyst afforded the product **3** in good yield, but addition of a catalytic amount of $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ resulted in the product **4**. The result showed that the $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ solid superacid had catalytic effect on the synthesis of **4**. From this fact, we suggest that the acid is essential for producing **4**.

The reaction of aromatic aldehyde or aliphatic aldehyde and 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione gave different experimental results. Table 1 shows that aromatic aldehyde gives better results than aliphatic aldehyde. For instance, 4-chlorobenzaldehyde and 4-nitrobenzaldehyde reacted with 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione in grinding and gave



Scheme 1.

Table 1. Synthesis of **3** with no catalyst in solid state by grinding

Entry	R	Product	Yield ^a (%)	Mp (°C)	
				Found	Reported ^[3a]
1	C ₆ H ₅ 1a	3a	86	193–194	194–195
2	4-ClC ₆ H ₄ 1b	3b	90	143–145	141–143 ^[3c]
3	3-ClC ₆ H ₄ 1c	3c	89	188–190	
4	2-ClC ₆ H ₄ 1d	3d	90	203–204	205
5	2,4-Cl ₂ C ₆ H ₃ 1e	3e	85	203–204	
6	4-O ₂ NC ₆ H ₄ 1f	3f	89	190–191	188–190
7	3-O ₂ NC ₆ H ₄ 1g	3g	88	198–199	197–198
8	4-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄ 1h	3h	89	141–142	
9	4-CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄ 1i	3i	87	144–145	142–143
10	4-(CH ₃) ₂ NC ₆ H ₄ 1j	3j	89	195–196	194.5–195.5
11	4-HOC ₆ H ₄ 1k	3k	90	187–189	188–190
12	2-HOC ₆ H ₄ 1l	3l	86	205–206	205–206
13	3,4-(OCH ₂ O)C ₆ H ₃ 1m	3m	89	176–177	175.5–177
14	C ₆ H ₅ CH=CH 1n	3n	87	215–216	215–217
15	4-HO-3-CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₃ 1o	3o	86	196–197	195.5–196.5
16	3-BrC ₆ H ₄ 1p	3p	89	203–204	
17	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ 1q	3q	65	165–166	164–165
18	H 1r	3r	86	192–193	191–191.5
19	CH ₃ 1s	3s	39	182–184	
20	COOH 1t	3t	38	241–242	239
21	<i>i</i> -C ₃ H ₇ 1u	3u	46	153–154	153–154.5
22	CHO 1v	3v	56	232–234	228

^aIsolated yield.

yields of **3b** (90%) and **3f** (89%) respectively. When acetaldehyde and *i*-butylaldehyde were treated with 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione under the same conditions, they gave isolated yields of **3s** (39%) and **3u** (46%) respectively. But, aliphatic aldehyde cannot give the corresponding compounds for the synthesis of **4**. The reason is that instability of aliphatic aldehyde makes the reaction difficult.

The catalyst TiO₂/SO₄²⁻ solid superacid was easily regenerated by filtering the reaction mixture, washing it with hot ethanol, and drying it at 120°C for 2 h. The catalyst could be reused six times for the synthesis of **4b** without significant loss of activity. The results are summarized in Table 3. In addition, it must be pointed out that all of the products were characterized by Mp, IR, ¹H NMR, and elemental analyses.

In conclusion, we have described a general and highly efficient procedure for the preparation of 2,2'-alkylmethylene bis(3-hydroxy-5,5-dimethyl-2-cyclohexene-1-one) or 1,8-dioxo-octahydroxanthene and their derivatives in

Table 2. Synthesis of **4** catalyzed by $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ in solid state by grinding

Entry	Ar	Product	Yield ^a (%)	Mp (°C)	
				Found	Reported ^[3a]
1	C_6H_5 1a	4a	88	204–205	204–205
2	4- ClC_6H_4 1b	4b	92	229–231	230–231 ^[3d]
3	3- ClC_6H_4 1c	4c	91	184–186	
4	2- ClC_6H_4 1d	4d	92	225–226	224–226
5	2,4- $\text{Cl}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ 1e	4e	89	250–252	253–254 ^[3e]
6	4- $\text{NO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ 1f	4f	90	222–223	222
7	3- $\text{NO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ 1g	4g	89	170–172	171.5–172.5
8	2- $\text{NO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ 1h	4h	90	246–248	246–248 ^[3d]
9	4- HOC_6H_4 1i	4i	91	246–247	246
10	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4$ 1j	4j	87	242–243	241–243 ^[3d]
11	4- $\text{Me}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4$ 1k	4k	88	221–222	220–222
12	4- $\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ 1l	4l	89	218–219	217–218 ^[3e]
13	4- $\text{HO}-3-\text{CH}_3\text{OC}_6\text{H}_3$ 1m	4m	90	227–228	226–228
14	3,4- $(\text{OCH}_2\text{O})\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ 1n	4n	89	217–218	218.5–220
15	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ 1o	4o	89	176–178	175–177 ^[3e]

^aIsolated yields.

the solid state by grinding. In addition, the reaction in the solid state by grinding methods is less expensive and less toxic than reactions using organic solvents. Moreover, the procedure offers several advantages including high yields, operational simplicity, cleaner reactions, and minimal environmental impact, which make it a useful and attractive process for the synthesis of these compounds.

EXPERIMENTAL

Liquid aldehydes were purified by distillation before use. IR spectra were recorded on a Bio-rad FIS-40 spectrometer (KBr). ¹H NMR spectra were

Table 3. Reuse of the catalyst for syntheses of **4b** in solid state by grinding

Entry	Yield (%)
1	92
2	91
3	90
4	88
5	89
6	88

measured on an AVAVCE-400 spectrometer using TMS as internal standard and CDCl_3 as solvent. Elemental analysis was measured on a HERAEUS (CHN, Rapid) analyzer.

Preparation of the Catalyst $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ Solid Superacid

The catalyst $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ solid superacid was prepared as follows. $\text{Ti}(\text{OH})_4$ was obtained by hydrolyzing TiCl_4 with aqueous ammonium hydroxide, washing the precipitates, drying them at 120°C for 4 h, and powdering the precipitates below a 100 mesh. The hydroxide was treated with 2 N H_2SO_4 for 4 h, filtrated, dried, and calcined in furnace at 475°C for 4 h, and finally stored in a desiccator until use.

General Procedure for the Preparation of 3

Aldehyde **1** (2 mmol) and 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione **2** (4 mmol) were added to a mortar. The mixture was ground by mortar and pestle at room temperature for 40 min and was kept at room temperature for 48 h. The product was extracted with dichloromethane; the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude products were obtained. The crude products **3** were purified by recrystallization from ethanol (95%).

General Procedure for the Preparation of 4

Aromatic aldehyde **1** (2 mmol), 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione **2** (4 mmol), and $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ solid superacid (100 mg) were added to a mortar. The mixture was ground by mortar and pestle at room temperature for 30 min and kept at room temperature for 24 h. It was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the product was extracted with dichloromethane and the catalyst $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ was filtered off and recycled, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude products **4** were obtained. The crude products were purified by recrystallization from ethanol (95%).

Data of some compounds are shown here:

3c. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3424, 3058, 2954, 2868, 2634, 1596, 1468, 1418, 1375, 1248, 1151, 974, 890, 870, 789 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.12$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.25 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.31–2.51 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 5.50 (s, 1H, CH), 6.98–7.28 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 11.57 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.91 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{27}\text{ClO}_4$: C, 68.56; H, 6.25. Found: C, 68.76; H, 6.14.

3e. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3425, 3060, 2950, 2865, 2630, 1601, 1470, 1417, 1379, 1250, 1152, 1135, 889, 790 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz):

$\delta = 1.13$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.25 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.30–2.52 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 5.51 (s, 1H, CH), 6.98–7.23 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 11.57 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.93 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_4$: C, 63.16; H, 5.99. Found: C, 63.02; H, 5.84.

3h. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3424, 3061, 2960, 2870, 2628, 1605, 1471, 1380, 1170, 1000, 890, 715 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.12$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.24 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.31–2.51 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 5.47 (s, 1H, CH), 2.78 (s, 3H, CH_3Ar), 6.92–7.21 (m, 3H, ArH), 11.57 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.91 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_4$: C, 73.36; H, 7.91. Found: C, 73.58; H, 7.68.

3n. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3443, 3073, 2960, 2870, 1610, 1500, 1494, 1425, 1365, 1298, 1215, 875, 743 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.12$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.25 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.31–2.51 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 2.48 (s, 1H, CH), 6.25–6.33 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$), 6.85–7.01 (m, 5H, ArH), 11.58 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.92 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_4$: C, 76.89; H, 7.74. Found: C, 76.78; H, 7.93.

3o. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3425, 3065, 2955, 2870, 1605, 1466, 1418, 1374, 1270, 1195, 995, 870, 710 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.16$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.25 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 6.95–7.24 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 5.45 (s, 1H, CH), 6.89–7.16 (m, 3H, ArH), 11.55 (s, 1H, OH), 11.93 (s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6$: C, 69.54; H, 7.29. Found: C, 69.75; H, 7.03.

3p. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3422, 3060, 2955, 2868, 1594, 1466, 1414, 1374, 1248, 1151, 974, 866, 749 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.12$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.25 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.31–2.51 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 5.51 (s, 1H, CH), 7.03–7.33 (m, 4H, ArH), 11.67 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.92 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{27}\text{BrO}_4$: C, 61.75; H, 6.08. Found: C, 61.98; H, 5.92.

3s. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3365, 3025, 2980, 2850, 1665, 1587, 1548, 1505, 1375, 1240, 1196, 850, 756 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.12$ (s, 12H, $4 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.14 (d, 3H, $J = 6.4 \text{ Hz}$, CH_3), 2.29–2.37 (m, 8H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$), 3.67 (q, 1H, $J = 6.4 \text{ Hz}$, CH), 11.65 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.95 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4$: C, 70.56; H, 8.55; Found: C, 70.78; H, 8.32.

3v. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3425, 3080, 2970, 2930, 2840, 1640, 1560, 1495, 1440, 1385, 1275, 1045, 935, 790 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 1.14$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.18 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.28 (s, 2H, CH_2), 2.42 (s, 2H, CH_2), 2.55 (s, 2H, CH_2), 2.81 (s, 2H, CH_2), 7.28 (d, 1H, $J = 5.3 \text{ Hz}$, CH), 8.74 (d, 1H, $J = 5.3 \text{ Hz}$, CHO), 11.64 (br, s, 1H, OH), 11.98 (br, s, 1H, OH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5$: C, 67.48; H, 7.55. Found: C, 67.69; H, 7.36.

4c. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3030, 2980, 1685, 1660, 1620, 1490, 1365, 1200, 1135, 1000, 850, 840 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.00$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 1.13 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.31 (dd, 4H, $J = 1.6 \text{ Hz}$, $J = 3.2 \text{ Hz}$, $2 \times \text{CH}_2$, H-4, 5), 2.47 (s, 4H, $4 \times \text{CH}_2$, H-2, 7), 4.78 (s, 1H, H-9), 7.13–7.25 (m, 4H, ArH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClO}_3$: C, 71.77; H, 6.54. Found: C, 71.89; H, 6.45.

4n. IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} = 3030, 2980, 1725, 1680, 1560, 1510, 1495, 1383, 1275, 1045, 945, 790 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): $\delta = 0.98$ (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$),

1.11 (s, 6H, $2 \times \text{CH}_3$), 2.18 (dd, 4H, $J = 1.6$, $J = 2.4$, $2 \times \text{CH}_2$, H-4, 5), 2.45 (s, 4H, $2 \times \text{CH}_2$, H-2, 7), 4.56 (s, 1H, H-9), 5.86 (s, 2H, OCH_2O), 6.77–6.86 (m, 3H, ArH). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_5$: C, 73.07; H, 6.64. Found: C, 73.13; H, 6.71.

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