FORMATION OF  $\alpha$ -(1-METHYL-2-BENZIMIDAZOLYL)BENZYL BENZOATES

BY THE COMBINED ACTION OF AROMATIC ALDEHYDES AND ACYL HALIDES

ON 1-METHYLBENZIMIDAZOLE

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In a study of the acylation of 1-methylbenzimidazole by the Regel method [1, 2] we observed that the formation of esters (II) of  $\alpha$ -(1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)benzyl alcohol and benzoic acids rather than acylation in the 2 position occurs when excess amounts of the aromatic aldehydes are added. The resulting esters are colorless crystalline substances.

$$C = C - C_6 H_4 R$$

$$C =$$

II a R=R'=H; b R=m-Cl, R'=H; c R=m-Br, R'=H; d R=m-Br, R'=p-Br

The following compounds were obtained (the melting points in degrees centigrade and the yields in percent are given): IIa, 143-145 (from methanol), 29; IIb, 119-121 (from methanol), 34; IIc, 146-147 (from ethanol), 28; IIId, 113-115 (from octane), 35. Their structures and compositions were proved by the IR spectra (1720 cm<sup>-1</sup>, CO), the results of elementary analysis, and cleavage by means of alcoholic alkali to give the corresponding carbinol III [3] and carboxylic acid IV.

## LITERATURE CITED

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