

A Useful Preparation of Cyclopentenones

Steven WOLFF, William C. AGOSTA

Laboratories of The Rockefeller University, New York, New York
10021, U.S.A.

The various general methods¹ that are available for conversion of saturated ketones to α,β -unsaturated compounds typically involve two separate operations and proceed in modest overall yield. In earlier work², for example, we employed a bromination-dehydrobromination procedure³ for conversion of cyclopentanones into cyclopentenones in

Table. Preparation of Cyclopentenones (**2a-c**)^a

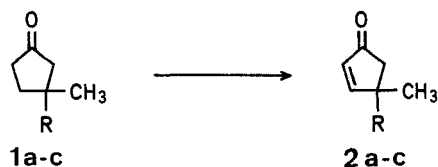
Product	R	Yield (%) ^b	Empirical Formula ^c	¹ H-N.M.R. (220 MHz, CCl ₄) δ ppm
2a	CH ₃	70	C ₇ H ₁₀ O (110.2)	Compatible with reported ⁶ spectrum.
2b	CH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂	64	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O (152.2)	7.30 (d, <i>J</i> =6 Hz), 5.93 (d, <i>J</i> =6 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (d, <i>J</i> =18 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (d, <i>J</i> =18 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.5 (dd, <i>J</i> =14, 5 Hz, 1H), 1.3 (dd, <i>J</i> =14, 7 Hz, 1H), 1.1 (s, 3H), 0.92 (d, <i>J</i> =7 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d, <i>J</i> =7 Hz, 1H).
2c	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	60	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O (152.2)	7.38 (d, <i>J</i> =6 Hz, 1H), 6.0 (d, <i>J</i> =6 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (d, <i>J</i> =18 Hz, 1H), 1.98 (d, <i>J</i> =18 Hz, 1H), 1.59-1.09 (br m, 6H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 0.90 (t, <i>J</i> =7 Hz, 3H).

^a **2a-c** all showed strong infrared absorption at 1721 cm⁻¹.

^b Estimated by gas chromatography; conditions: 3 m × 0.635 cm column of 25% QF-1 on Chromosorb W at 192° and helium flow rate of 73 ml/min.

^c Analytical samples obtained by preparative gas chromatography; conditions: 3 m × 0.95 cm column of 30% Carbowax 20 M on Chromosorb W at 190° and helium flow rate of 150 ml/min. Compounds **2b** and **2c** gave satisfactory elemental analyses (C ± 0.17%, H ± 0.14%).

yields of 30–40%. Since that time we have had continuing need for a better method of carrying out this transformation. For our purposes complete conversion, improved yield, and convenience of operation on a small scale were primary considerations. It appeared that previous observations and exploratory experiments⁴ concerning the dehydrogenation of ketones by palladium(II) compounds offered the basis for a practical procedure that would meet our needs. This has proved to be the case, and we report here conditions for oxidation of 3,3-disubstituted cyclopentanones to the corresponding cyclopentenones in a single operation with yields of 60–70%. The ketone in acetic acid/dioxan is treated with chloranil plus an equivalent of palladium(II) chloride in a small volume of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and the resulting reaction mixture is stirred at 110° for 2–3 days. Simple work up and bulb-to-bulb distillation furnishes the unsaturated ketone in good purity. These conditions have been applied successfully for conversion of ketones **1a-c** to the corresponding cyclopentenones **2a-c**. A typical procedure is detailed below.



a R = CH₃

b R = CH₂-CH(CH₃)₂

c R = *n*-C₄H₉

Preparation of 3-Isobutyl-3-methyl-5-oxocyclopentene (**2b**):

Palladium chloride (887 mg, 5 mmol) was dissolved in concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.5 ml) by warming on a steam bath; a homogeneous red-brown oil remained after removal of most of the aqueous acid in vacuo. To this was added 3-isobutyl-3-methylcyclopentanone (**1b**; 761 mg, 4.94 mmol)⁵, chloranil (1.230 g, 5 mmol), glacial acetic acid (5 ml) and dioxan (2.5 ml) and the mixture was stirred at 110° for 48 h. The reaction mixture was poured into pentane and filtered through Hyflo Super-Cel; the pentane solution was washed with water, 5% sodium hydroxide, water, and brine and was dried over magnesium sulfate. After removal of the pentane by distillation through a Vigreux column, the residue was distilled bulb-to-bulb (120–140°/18 torr) to give a colorless oil; yield: 481 mg. V.P.C. analysis of the distillate indicated virtually pure cyclopentenone **2b** with < 1% of the starting material remaining.

We thank the National Science Foundation for support of this research.

Received: October 31, 1975
(Revised form: December 23, 1975)

¹ For extensive references and discussions of new methods see H. J. Reich, J. M. Renga, I. L. Reich, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **97**, 5434 (1975).

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⁵ This compound was prepared by conjugate addition of isobutylmagnesium bromide to 3-methylcyclopentenone and characterized by I.R. and N.M.R. spectra, and elemental analysis.

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