

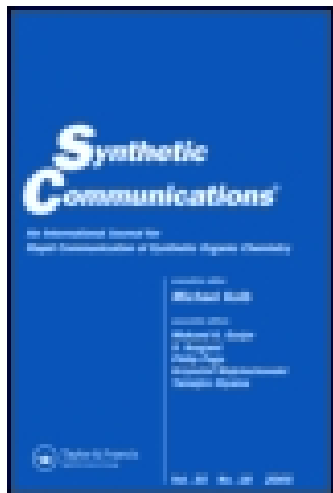
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### 1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene Peroxodisulfate: An Efficient Reagent for Synthesis of $\beta$ -Nitrato Alcohols

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# 1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene Peroxodisulfate: An Efficient Reagent for Synthesis of $\beta$ -Nitrato Alcohols

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**Abstract:** A simple and efficient method for the ring opening of epoxides to  $\beta$ -hydroxy nitrates has been achieved in the presence of ammonium nitrate and 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate.

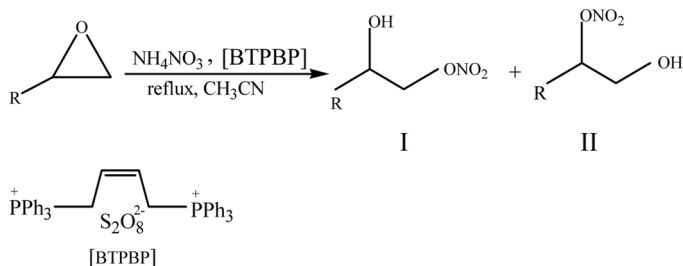
**Keywords:** 1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate, epoxide,  $\beta$ -hydroxy nitrate, regioselectivity, ring opening

## INTRODUCTION

Epoxides (oxiranes) are a useful class of precursors in organic synthesis. The epoxide ring can easily be cleaved by a variety of nucleophilic reagents, forming regio- and stereoselective ring-opened products, especially  $\beta$ -substituted alcohols.<sup>[1]</sup> However, there are few applications of the nitrate ion as the nucleophile for these reactions.<sup>[2]</sup>  $\beta$ -Hydroxy nitrates as functionalized alkyl nitrates, which are useful intermediates in organic synthesis,<sup>[3]</sup> have been prepared in low yields through the reaction of oxiranes with concentrated nitric acid<sup>[4]</sup> or by nitration of haloalcohols with silver nitrates.<sup>[5]</sup> Recently, some methods for the synthesis of  $\beta$ -hydroxy nitrates based on the reaction of epoxides with tetranitromethane,<sup>[6]</sup> ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN),<sup>[7]</sup> nitric oxide (NO) in air,<sup>[8]</sup>

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*Scheme 1.*

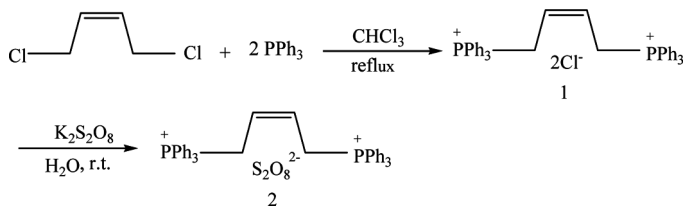
zirconyl nitrate,<sup>[9]</sup> and bismuth nitrate<sup>[2a]</sup> were reported. Unfortunately, some of these methods are not always fully satisfactory and suffer from disadvantages such as long reaction times, poor regioselectivity, using of expensive or sensitive reagents, and poor yields. Thus, a better method for ring opening of epoxides with nitrate ions is still required (Scheme 1).

Peroxodisulfate ion is an excellent and versatile oxidant, used mostly for the oxidation of compounds in aqueous solution.<sup>[10]</sup> In spite of the great convenience of using  $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ , or  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$  and relatively high oxidation potential, many oxidation reactions by peroxodisulfate do not proceed at a convenient rate. This can be largely attributed to the rate-limiting homolysis, which has activation energy of approximately 30 Kcal/mol. Thus, certain limitations may be observed with these reagents. The decomposition of the peroxodisulfate ion requires strong mineral acids and heavy-metal ions<sup>[11]</sup> as catalysts, and also protic and polar solvents are needed, so the modification of  $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ , or  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$  has received much attention recently.<sup>[12]</sup>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In continuation of our studies on the application of peroxodisulfate in organic synthesis,<sup>[13]</sup> we report a mild and efficient method for the ring opening of oxiranes. Thus, 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate was readily prepared by adding an aqueous solution of potassium peroxodisulfate to a solution of 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene dichloride in water. It is a very stable, white solid that can be stored for months without losing its activity. It is soluble in acetonitrile, methanol, dichloromethane, chloroform, and ethyl acetate and slightly soluble in  $\text{CCl}_4$  and diethyl ether (Scheme 2).

In our initial work, a variety of oxiranes were treated with appropriate amounts of 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate



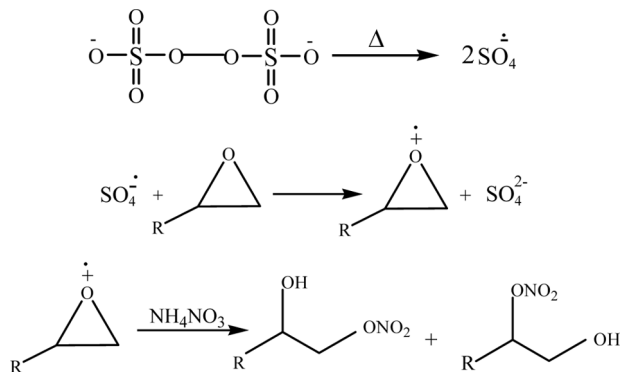
Scheme 2.

and NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> in three different conditions: (a) solid-state condition in the presence of silica gel as a surface activator, (b) microwave irradiation, and (c) reflux condition using acetonitrile as the most convenient solvent. The first two conditions, which were carried out with different amounts of substrates and microwave power, were not fruitful. With conventional reflux condition, the reaction with all used oxiranes in acetonitrile proceeded smoothly and selectively, and  $\beta$ -hydroxy nitrate in 80–92% yields were obtained. These results are summarized in Table 1. We conducted the same reactions with all epoxides listed in Table 1 at the same reaction conditions in the presence of K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> as the oxidant and found that mixtures of possible hydroxyl nitrates and unidentified products were formed. The yields of isolated  $\beta$ -hydroxy nitrates were especially poor, and the reaction times were longer than in the case of oxidant 2. Also, the saturated form of compound 2 was prepared either via hydrogenation of compound 1 followed by (Cl<sup>-</sup>  $\rightarrow$  S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>) exchange or the reaction of 1,4-dichlorobutane with triphenylphosphine followed by anion exchange. Utilizing this saturated oxidant for the ring opening of epoxides caused long reaction times and smaller yields than unsaturated oxidant 2. As mentioned, both procedures, using K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> and the saturated form of oxidant 2, were not attractive because of their very low solubility in reaction medium and the probable lack of fixed *cis* orientation of saturated oxidant compared to oxidant 2. To determine the optimum condition for our procedure, the conversion of styrene oxide to the corresponding  $\beta$ -hydroxy nitrate in the presence of 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate as an oxidant in acetonitrile was investigated. The optimum molar ratio of the oxidant to epoxide was found to be 0.6:1 mmol. When the nitrate ion was added to several unsymmetrical epoxides as shown in Scheme 1, formation of two isomeric products (I and II) was possible. Except for the reaction of styrene oxide (Table 1, entry 1), in which the ring opening occurred at the benzylic ring position and predominantly produced the primary alcohol, the reaction of the other unsymmetrical epoxides (Table 1, entries 2–5, 8, and 9) were highly regioselective. The products formed by cleavage at the unsubstituted ring

**Table 1.** Reaction of various epoxides with ammonium nitrate in the presence of 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate as oxidant<sup>a</sup>

No.	Substrate	Product (s)	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1			1	80 (15:85) <sup>b</sup>
2			3	82
3			2	90
4			2.5	92
5			2	87
6			1	85
7			1.5	83
8			2.5	87
9			1.5	90

<sup>a</sup>Products were identified by comparison of their physical and spectral data with those of authentic samples.<sup>b</sup>According to GC analysis.



Scheme 3.

position, and in each case only one isomer was obtained. Also in the case of cyclic epoxides (Table 1, entries 6 and 7), the reaction was completely antistereoselective, and only *trans* products were obtained. The coupling constant of the vicinal hydrogens is different in anti and syn products. The structures and configurations of the products were confirmed by comparison of their spectral values with those reported earlier.<sup>[9,2c]</sup> It is noteworthy that the reaction medium was almost neutral, so that some sensitive functional groups such as the carbon–carbon double bond remained intact (Table 1, entries 5 and 8). The possible mechanism of the oxidation reaction using the peroxodisulfate mechanism might be as follows: the sulfate anion radical gains an electron from epoxide and oxidizes the ring to a cation radical. This radical reacts with  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  to form the corresponding product (Scheme 3).

In conclusion, we have developed a novel and efficient protocol for the synthesis of  $\beta$ -nitrato alcohols with  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  using 1,4-bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate as oxidant. This method offers several advantages, including high conversions, short reaction times, and good isolated yields, which make it useful and attractive process for the ring opening of epoxides.

## EXPERIMENTAL

All products were characterized by comparison of their physical data and infrared (IR),  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra with authentic samples. The IR spectra were recorded on a Bomem Fourier transform (FT)–IR spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were taken on a 400-MHz Bruker spectrometer. 1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene

peroxodisulfate was prepared, and other chemicals were purchased from the Merck Chemical Company in Darmstadt, Germany.

### Preparation of 1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene Dichloride (1)

Triphenylphosphine (2.62 g, 10 mmol) was added to a solution of 1,4-dichlorobutene (0.63 g, 5 mmol) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (10 mL) in a 50-mL, round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer and a reflux condenser. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 2.5 h. The solution was cooled to room temperature, and then diethyl ether was added dropwise until an oily product was separated. The ether was removed by decantation, and acetone (40 mL) was added. Stirring the acetone solution for 40 min afforded a white precipitate, which was filtered, washed with acetone, and then dried. Yield 80%, mp 278–279°C. IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3053, 2755, 1613, 1575, 1478, 1437, 754, 693, 556 \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$ .  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 20.7, 120.8, 132.15, 134.2, 137.01, 140.17$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 5.7$  (dd, 4 H), 6.3 (m, 2 H), 7.79–8 (m, 30 H).

### Preparation of 1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene Peroxodisulfate (2)

A solution of  $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$  (0.54 g, 2 mmol) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5 mL) was prepared in a 25-mL, round-bottomed flask with a magnetic stirrer. Compound **1** (1.298 g, 2 mmol) was added to this solution, and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 h. The resulting white precipitate was filtered, washed with distilled water (10 mL), and dried in vacuo. Yield 78%, mp 205–208°C. IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3053, 2750, 1623, 1585, 1472, 1437, 750, 724, 689, 556 \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$ .  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 19.04, 119.45, 130.05, 133.98, 136.91, 138.8$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 4.7$  (dd, 4 H), 5.8 (m, 2 H), 7.68–8 (m, 30 H).

### General Procedure for the Preparation of $\beta$ -Hydroxy Nitrate

1,4-Bis(triphenylphosphonium)-2-butene peroxodisulfate (0.6 mmol) was added in small portions to a solution of epoxide (1 mmol) and  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  (2 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5/1:30 mL) in a 50-mL, round-bottomed flask equipped with a condenser and a magnetic stirrer. The reaction mixture was refluxed for the appropriate time indicated in Table 1. The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC). On completion of reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The solvent was evaporated; water (20 mL) was added and extracted with diethyl ether ( $3 \times 15 \text{ mL}$ ). The combined



organic layers were concentrated in vacuo; the resulting product was directly charged on a small silica-gel column and eluted with a mixture of ethyl acetate and n-hexane (1:4) to afford the pure product.

The IR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra data of the products are listed.

### Selected Data

#### 1-Hydroxy-2-phenylethyl Nitrate **1**

IR: 3365 (OH), 1632 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), 1455 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.9 (br s, 1 H), 3.2 (d, 2 H), 5.52 (m, 1 H), 7.2–7.36 (m, 5 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 67.2 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 81.6 (CH), 127.2 ( $2 \times \text{CH}$ ), 128.4 ( $2 \times \text{CH}$ ), 131.1 (CH), 141.1 (C).

#### 3-Phenoxy-2-hydroxypropyl Nitrate **2**

IR: 3389 (OH), 1630 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), 1452 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 3.68 (br s, 1 H), 4.2 (d, 2 H), 4.5 (m, 1 H), 4.9 (d, 2 H), 6.7–7.26 (m, 5 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 71 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 73.2 (CH), 74.6 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 115.2 ( $2 \times \text{CH}$ ), 122.7 ( $2 \times \text{CH}$ ), 131.7 (CH), 162.1 (C).

#### 3-Chloro-2-hydroxypropyl Nitrate **3**

IR: 3400 (OH), 1640 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), 1435 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 3.35 (br s, 1 H), 3.95 (d, 2 H), 4.88 (m, 1 H), 5.09 (d, 2 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 49 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 75.2 (CH), 79.2 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ).

#### 2-Hydroxy-3-isopropoxypropyl Nitrate **4**

IR: 3382 (OH), 1632 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), 1467 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.3 (d, 6 H), 3.15 (br s, 1 H), 3.85 (m, 1 H), 4.13 (m, 3 H), 4.86 (d, 2 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 22 ( $2 \times \text{CH}_3$ ), 71.2 (CH), 75.6 (CH), 76.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 78.9 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ).

#### 3-Nitrato-2-hydroxypropyl Methacrylate **5**

IR: 3435 (OH), 1626 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), 1280 ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.1 (s, 3 H), 3.05 (br s, 1 H), 4.38 (m, 1 H), 4.5 (d, 2 H), 5.1 (d, 2 H), 5.7 (d, 1 H), 6.2 (d, 1 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 18.5 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 69.2 (CH), 71.6 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 77.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 128.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 134 (C), 168 (C).

### 2-Hydroxycyclohexyl Nitrate **6**

IR: 3365 (OH), 1633 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1439 (NO<sub>2</sub>) (cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 1.3–1.5 (m, 4H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.55 (br s, 1H), 4.18 (m, 1H), 5.45 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 19.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.1 (CH), 78.3 (CH).

### 2-Hydroxycyclopentyl Nitrate **7**

IR: 3360 (OH), 1642 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1441 (NO<sub>2</sub>) (cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.95–2.14 (m, 4H), 2.45 (br s, 1H), 4.28 (m, 1H), 5.05 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 19.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 80.1 (CH), 81.3 (CH).

### 3-Allyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl Nitrate **8**

IR: 3454 (OH), 1631 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1377 (NO<sub>2</sub>) (cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 3.09 (br s, 1H), 3.38 (d, 2H), 3.85 (d, 2H), 4.02 (m, 1H), 4.56 (d, 2H), 5.29–5.43 (m, 2H), 5.96 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 69.2 (CH), 74.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 75.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 75.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 119.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 140.5 (CH).

### 3-Butoxy-2-hydroxypropyl Nitrate **9**

IR: 3360 (OH), 1643 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1439 (NO<sub>2</sub>) (cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 0.95 (t, 3H), 1.41 (six, 2H), 1.52 (pent, 2H), 3.04 (br s, 1H), 3.85 (t, 2H), 4.03 (m, 2H), 4.16 (m, 1H), 4.33 (d, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 72.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 72.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.6 (CH), 74.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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