BORODIN - HUNSDIECKER REACTION IN THE ISOXAZOLE SERIES

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The homolytic substitution of hydrogen in an isoxazole ring has not yet been described. We have found that the silver salts of isoxazole-4-carboxylic acids react smoothly with bromine and form 4-bromo-isoxazoles via the scheme of the Borodin-Hunsdiecker reaction, for which a free-radical chain mechanism for decomposition of the intermediate acyl hypobromite has been established.

This method was used to obtain 3,5-dimethyl-4-bromoisoxazole (Ia) with bp 62-64° (15 mm) and n_D^{20} 1.4891 [1] in 47% yield; no melting-point depression was observed for a mixture of the 2,3,5-trimethyl-4-bromoisoxazolium chloroferrates obtained from this product and a genuine sample. 3-Phenyl-4-bromo-5-methylisoxazole (Ib) with bp 128-130° (5 mm) and n_D^{20} 1.5816, was similarly obtained. Found: Br 33.4%. $C_{10}H_8BrNO$. Calculated: Br 33.6%.

Isoxazole-3- and isoxazole-5-carboxylic acids give mixtures of products with predominance of acyclic compounds. 5-Phenylisoxazole-3-carboxylic acid gave 3-bromo-5-phenylisoxazole in $\sim\!10\%$ yield (the PMR spectrum of a CCl $_{\!4}$ solution has a singlet at 6.48 ppm). Thus 4-isoxazolyl radicals are more stable than 3-isoxazolyl radicals.

LITERATURE CITED

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