S. V. Rogozhin, Yu. A. Davidovich, and S. M. Andreev

It is known that in order to obtain the esters of isocyanocarboxylic acids it is necessary to treat the hydrochlorides of the esters of the corresponding amino acids with phosgene for a long time at elevated temperature [1, 2]. Recently a communication appeared [3] on the possibility of obtaining aliphatic isocyanates by the treatment of N-silyl-substituted amines with phosgene. In view of this we undertook a study of the reaction of phosgene with various alkylsilyl derivatives of α -amino acids. Even the first results of this study disclosed that the esters of the N-trimethylsilylamino acids react with exceeding ease with phosgene at low temperature (below 0°), being converted to the esters of the corresponding isocyanocarboxylic acids. The reaction proceeds in high yield and is practically completed at the moment of mixing the reagents. In order to obtain the starting esters of the N-trimethylsilylamino acids it is sufficient to heat the corresponding esters of the amino acid (or their hydrochlorides) for a short time with a slight excess of trimethylsilyldiethylamine (I) at a temperature in the order of 100-200°

 $H_2NCHRCOOR' \xrightarrow{(CH_4)_3 SIN(C_2H_5)_2} (CH_3)_3 SINHCHRCOOR' \xrightarrow{COCl_2} O = C = N - CHRCOOR'.$

In a typical example, a mixture of 5.44 g of the ethyl ester (EE) of valine and 7.1 g of (I) was heated at 120° until the evolution of diethylamine ceased. Subsequent distillation of the reaction mixture in vacuo gave 7.16 g (87%) of the EE of N-trimethylsilylvaline (II) with bp 75-76° (6 mm). To 3.62 g of liquid phosgene was carefully added 6.03 g of (II), maintaining the temperature at -15° . After warming up to room temperature, and evaporation of the excess phosgene, the reaction mixture was vacuum-distilled. In sum total we isolated 3.8 g (80%) of the EE of N-carbonylvaline with bp 71-73° (8 mm); n_D^{20} 1.4280. Found: N 8.32%. C₈H₁₃NO₃. Calculated: N 8.19%. Infrared spectrum: 2260, 1740, 1025 cm⁻¹. In a similar manner was obtained the EE of N-carbonyl-L-alanine with bp 69-71° (15 mm); yield 71%, $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ -21.5° (C 1; DMF). Found: C 50.35; H 6.29; N 9.66%. C₆H₉NO₃. Calculated: C 50.20; H 6.29; N 9.77%.

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