

Hydrogenation of Diphenylethyne Catalyzed by PdCl₂ in CH₂Cl₂ and Polyethylene Glycol

Nobutaka SUZUKI,* Yasuo AYAGUCHI, Tsuneaki TSUKANAKA, and Yasuji IZAWA

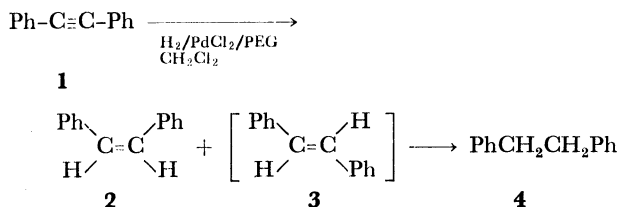
Department of Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Mie University, Tsu, Mie 514

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Synopsis. A practically homogeneous system of PdCl₂ in CH₂Cl₂ in the presence of polyethylene glycol catalyzed hydrogenation reactions of diphenylethyne (**1**) and *cis*-1,2-diphenylethene (**2**) to **2** and/or 1,2-diphenylethane (**4**). Under the conditions, the selectivity of the hydrogenation of **1** to **2** against that of **1** to **4** was excellent, compared to that using the Pd/C system.

Polyethylene glycol (PEG) is an excellent substitute of crown ether because of its low-price, low-toxicity, non-volatility, and solubility in both organic solvents and water (easily removable). It has been used as a co-solvent as described in our previous reports¹⁾ and in others.²⁾

Much data have been accumulated for the heterogeneous³⁾ and homogeneous⁴⁾ catalysts of hydrogenation. However, there has been no report on the hydrogenation catalyzed by PdCl₂ which is made soluble in organic solvents by means of some co-solvent(s). Although a few nucleophilic additions to alkenes and alkynes proceeding by initial formation of a double or triple bond-PdCl₂ complex were known,⁵⁾ there have been no reports on the hydrogenation of them catalyzed by PdCl₂. We describe here a novel homogeneous catalyst for the hydrogenation of diphenylethyne (**1**) and 1,2-diphenylethene (**2**) to the corresponding *cis*-olefin (**2**) and the saturated hydrocarbon (**4**), respectively. Good selectivity for the partial reduction of **1** to **2** was achieved. The reactions can be interrupted simply by washing with water. This makes it easy to maximize the selectivity. This is the first example of a homogeneous catalyst using a host-guest complex between PEG and palladium for the hydrogenation of alkynes and olefins.



Palladium chloride⁶⁾ placed in a round-bottomed flask was covered with H₂ gas. Into the flask was added a solution of diphenylethyne⁶⁾ (**1**) in CH₂Cl₂ or some other solvent(s) with or without PEG⁷⁾ through an injection needle. The resulting clear solution was stirred at 10 °C. The hydrogenation reactions were monitored by GLC by comparing with the authentic *cis*- and *trans*-1,2-diphenylethenes⁶⁾ (**2** and **3**) and 1,2-diphenylethane⁷⁾ (**4**). Palladium/C (10%) was employed for comparisons. The results are shown in Table 1. In the case of using PEG, the aliquots were washed with water to remove the PEG and the other water soluble components before the application on GLC. Conversion yields for **2** and **4** were calculated

on the basis of the conversion of **1**, ignoring a trace of **3** (less than few %). Selectivity is represented by the ratio of [2]/[4]. Palladium black seemed not to be formed during the reaction.

Table 1 shows that PdCl₂ worked in EtOH similarly to the Pd/C, but the selectivity is lower than for the latter (runs No. 1 and 2 in Table 1). In CH₂Cl₂, Pd/C did not catalyze the reaction well and the conversion of **1** was low, while PdCl₂ worked well (runs No. 4–5).

Employment of PEG as a co-solvent in CH₂Cl₂ accelerated the reaction and gave higher selectivity (runs No. 3 and 7). A higher concentration of PEG #200, however, seems to lower the reaction rate and the selectivity (runs No. 3 and 6). The viscosity of the medium may affect these values.

Molecular weight of PEG affected both the rates and the selectivity: PEG #400 gave the highest selectivity (runs No. 6–9). This may be explained by the ease of the formation of complex between the PEG molecule and Pd²⁺ cation.⁸⁾ If the cation forms a complex bound with PEG too tightly, the complex formation might also cause the difficulty of contact between the catalyst and the substrate. Consequently, the reaction rates decreased when PEG of higher molecular weight was used.

The other solvents used gave less effective results (runs No. 10–13). PEG #200 did not give higher selectivity in CHCl₃.

Ethylene oxide-condensed pentaerythritols (PEO-8.3EO and PEO-15.8EO)⁹⁾ worked well as co-solvents as PEG (runs No. 14–15).

Similar catalytic hydrogenation occurred when *cis*-1,2-diphenylethene (**2**) was used as a substrate (see Table 2) under similar conditions to those used above. The conversion yields were quantitative, but the reaction rates were not satisfactory for the preparation of **4**.

Experimental

Diphenylethyne⁶⁾ (**1**), *cis*- and *trans*-1,2-diphenylethenes⁶⁾ (**2** and **3**), 1,2-diphenylethane⁶⁾ (**4**), PdCl₂⁶⁾ and 10% Pd/C were purchased. Polyethylene glycols #200, #400, #600, and #1000 were purchased⁷⁾ and dried azeotropically (benzene) before use. EtOH (Mg) and CH₂Cl₂ (CaH₂) were dried over and distilled from the desiccant shown in the parentheses. GLC tests were performed on a Yanagimoto Yanaco G-80F (FID): 5% PEG-20 M on Gasport (60–80 mesh) in a stainless steel column (φ 2 mm × 2.0 m); col. temp 160 °C, inj. temp 180 °C, carrier gas (N₂), 20.9 ml/min.

Catalytic Hydrogenation of Diphenylethyne (1**) or *cis*-1,2-Diphenylethene (**2**).** Palladium chloride or 10% Pd/C (final concentration: 0.94 mM) (1 M = 1 mol dm⁻³) was placed in a 50 ml-round-bottomed flask which was kept in a thermostated bath (10 ± 0.5 °C) with a serum cap. The flask

TABLE 1. HYDROGENATION OF DIPHENYLETHYNE (1) AT 10 °C

Run No.	Solvent	Catalyst ^{a)}	Co-solvent (M)	Conversion of 1 %	Time min	Conversion yield ^{b)} /%		[2]/[4]
						2	4	
1	EtOH	Pd/C ^{c)}	— ^{d)}	60	8.5	75	25	3.00
				90	17	65	35	1.86
2		PdCl ₂	—	60	9	55	45	1.22
				90	20	46	64	0.72
3	CH ₂ Cl ₂		PEG #200 ^{e)} 1.0	60	50	71	29	2.45
				90	90	57	43	1.33
4		Pd/C	—	54	300	83	17	4.88
				60	83	67	33	2.03
5		PdCl ₂	—	90	180	58	42	1.38
				60	23	78	22	3.55
6			PEG #200 0.5	90	45	62	38	1.63
				60	31	80	20	4.00
7			PEG #400 0.5	90	79	72	28	2.57
				60	51	74	26	2.85
8			PEG #600 0.5	90	120	57	43	1.33
				60	89	72	28	2.57
9			PEG #1000 0.5	81	180	57	43	1.33
				60	23	59	41	1.44
10	Et ₂		—	90	54	40	60	0.67
				60	15	59	41	1.44
11	Me ₂ CO		—	90	64	25	75	0.33
				60	188	62	38	1.63
12	CHCl ₃		—	66	240	62	38	1.63
				60	225	50	50	1.00
13			PEG #200 1.0	84	420	42	58	0.72
				60	28.5	69	31	2.23
14	CH ₂ Cl ₂		PEO-8.3EO ^{f)} 1.0	90	53	55	45	1.22
				60	31	68	32	2.13
15			PEO-15.8EO ^{g)} 1.0	90	82	59	41	1.44

a) [1]: 10 mM; [cat.]: 0.94 mM. b) Trace amounts of 3 were also detected. c) Pd/C: 10% Palladium charcoal. d) PEG with mean mol. wt. of 200; others as written (Nakarai Chem. Co.). e) PEO-8.3EO: Pentaerythritol-8.3 ethylene oxide (Ref. 9). f) PEO-15.8EO: Pentaerythritol-15.8 ethylene oxide (Ref. 9). g) Not employed.

TABLE 2. HYDROGENATION OF *cis*-1,2-DIPHENYLETHENE (2)

Run	Solvent	Catalyst ^{a)}	PEG (M)	Conversion %	Time min	Conversion yield of 4/%
1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	Pd/C ^{b)}	—	80	300	100
2	CH ₂ Cl ₂	Pd/C	#200 ^{c)} 1.0	18	480	100
3	EtOH	Pd/C	—	90	100	82
4	CH ₂ Cl ₂	PdCl ₂	—	80	480	100
5	CH ₂ Cl ₂	PdCl ₂	#200 1.0	90	400	100
6	EtOH	PdCl ₂	—	90	80	90
7	CH ₂ Cl ₂	—	#200 1.0	0	120	—

a) [1]: 10 mM; [cat.]: 0.94 mM. b) Pd/C: 10% Palladium charcoal. c) PEG with mean mol. wt. of 200.

was evacuated with an aspirator through an injection needle which pierced the serum cap. A balloon containing H₂ gas was attached through another injection needle. The evacuation and the filling with H₂ gas were repeated three times. Finally, the needle with the aspirator was disconnected, while the needle with the balloon of H₂ gas was kept in place. A solution (25 ml) of diphenylethyne (1: 10 mM) or *cis*-1,2-diphenylethene (2: 40 mM) in CH₂Cl₂ or the other solvent(s) with/without PEG (1 M) was added into the flask through an injection needle. The resulting clear solution was stirred at 10 °C. The hydrogenation reactions were monitored by GLC, comparing with the authentic samples, *cis*- and *trans*-1,2-diphenylethenes (2 and 3) and/or 1,2-diphenylethane (4). Recovery of 1 and generation of 2, 3, and 4 were observed. Conversion yields for 2 and 4 were calculated on the basis of the conversion of 1, ignoring the trace amounts of 3 (less than a few %). Selectivity of the hydrogenation is represented by the ratio of [2]/[4]. The results are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

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