

Reduction of Alkyl Esters to Alkanes by Sodium in Hexamethylphosphoric Triamide. A New Method for the Deoxygenation of Alcohols

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Summary Esters of primary, secondary, or tertiary alcohols are reduced by sodium in hexamethylphosphoric triamide containing *t*-butyl alcohol to provide predominantly the corresponding alkanes and alcohols.

In our previous reports concerning the reduction of aliphatic esters to alkanes by photolysis in hexamethylphosphoric triamide (HMPA)-water,¹ we suggested that the radical (I) is an intermediate. In principle, such a species might also be

