

A Novel Generation of Perfluoroalkylated Enolates by the Reaction of PhMgBr with Fluorinated β -Ketophosphonium Salts

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A novel one-pot generation of perfluoroalkylated enolates by the reaction of PhMgBr with fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salts and its application to the synthesis of perfluoroalkylated vinyl ethers, β -hydroxy ketones, ketones and vinyl ethers are described.

In view of the central position of enolate chemistry in synthetic organic chemistry, fluorinated enolate chemistry should, in principle, occupy an equally important position in organofluorine chemistry.¹ However, only a few reports have appeared in the literature concerning the generation and utilization of enolates bearing a perfluoroalkyl group.^{1,2} Thus, it is of much value to develop a convenient method for the generation of perfluoroalkylated enolates.

Recently we found that carbon nucleophiles could attack fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salts leading to the formation of tetrasubstituted fluoroalkenes³ and fluoroenynes.⁴ However, in our continuing investigation to exploit the synthetic utility of fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salts in organic synthesis, we found that PhMgBr could react with fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salts to give fluorinated

enolates which could be applied to the synthesis of perfluoroalkylated vinyl esters, β -hydroxy ketones, ketones and vinyl ethers.

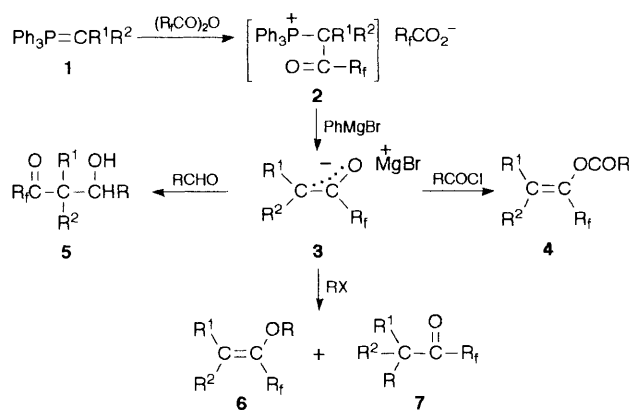
The fluorinated enolate **3** generated from the reaction of PhMgBr with fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salt **2** exhibits the normal enolate reactivity in relation to its O- and C-nucleophilicity. Compound **3** reacts with acyl chlorides and aldehydes to give unique fluorinated vinyl esters or β -hydroxy ketones, respectively. Reaction with benzyl bromide gives fluorinated vinyl ether **6** and ketone **7** (Scheme 1). The results are shown in Table 1.

In a typical procedure, *n*-butyllithium (4 mmol in 4 ml of *n*-hexane) was added dropwise with stirring to a suspension of cyclopentyltriphenylphosphonium bromide **1a** (1.64 g, 4 mmol) in absolute tetrahydrofuran (THF) (40 ml) under

Table 1 Preparation of compounds **4**, **5**, **6** and **7**

Product	R ¹	R ²	R _f	Electrophile ^c	B.p./°C at 2 mmHg	Yield (%) ^a
4a		-(CH ₂) ₄ -	CF ₃	PhCOCl	88	90
4b		-(CH ₂) ₄ -	CF ₃	<i>p</i> -ClPhCOCl	92	94
4c		-(CH ₂) ₄ -	CF ₃	MeCOCl	56	80
4d		-(CH ₂) ₄ -	<i>n</i> -C ₃ F ₇	PhCOCl	94	69
4e		-(CH ₂) ₅ -	CF ₃	PhCOCl	92	73
4f	Me	Me	CF ₃	PhCOCl	76	74
4g	Me	Me	CF ₃	<i>p</i> -ClPhCOCl	85	79
5a		-(CH ₂) ₄ -	CF ₃	EtCHO	82	51
5b		-(CH ₂) ₄ -	CF ₃	Pr ⁿ CHO	88	43
6a	Me	Me	CF ₃	PhCH ₂ Br	115	36 ^b
7a	Me	Me	CF ₃	PhCH ₂ Br	115	29 ^b

^a Isolated yields. ^b **6a** and **7a** are two products isolated from one reaction. ^c RCOCl, RCHO or RX.

**Scheme 1**

nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min and trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.63 g, 3 mmol) was added slowly at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ until the characteristic ylidic colour disappeared. After stirring at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 min, PhMgBr (4 mmol in 4 ml Et_2O) was added slowly for 15 min and the mixture was stirred for another 30 min. Then benzoyl chloride (0.56 g, 4 mmol) was added at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min and the

mixture warmed to $20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for another 3 h (in the case of aldehydes and benzyl bromide, the solution was stirred at $20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 h). The product **4a** was isolated by column chromatography.

It is noteworthy that other types of Grignard reagents such as Bu^nMgBr , $\text{PhC}\equiv\text{CMgBr}$ and PhCH_2MgCl only give the tetrasubstituted fluoroalkenes when they react with fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salt **2a**. They act as nucleophiles like organolithium compounds^{3,4} and the detailed mechanism of the reaction of Grignard reagents with fluorinated β -ketophosphonium salts is being pursued.

The authors thank the National Natural Science Foundation of China and Academia Sinica for financial support.

Received, 28th May 1991; Com. 1102493K

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