The Use of a Nicotinoyl Group as a Protective Group for Hydroxyl and Amino Functions

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The effective use of a nicotinoyl group as an easily introducible and cleavable protective group for hydroxyl and amino groups is described. Deprotection by alkaline hydrolysis is performed after activation by quarternization of pyridine moiety with methyl iodide.

Acyl groups are good protective groups for hydroxyl and amino functions from the viewpoint that the protected substrates are stable. This means, however, that deprotection sometimes must be carried out under drastic conditions. To facilitate the removal of acyl groups several methods by converting the acyl moieties into more labile groups toward the deprotection reaction have been reported. For example, protective groups containing functional groups such as nitro and carbonyl groups which can assist the deprotection after being converted into another functions and those containing pyridine moieties such as 2-(2- or 4-pyridyl)ethoxycarbonyl and those containing pyridine moieties which can be activated by quarternization have been developed. This paper describes the results from the examination to use a nicotinoyl group for the protection of hydroxyl and amino groups. Nicotinic esters and amides can be converted into pyridinium salts which are more susceptible to alkaline hydrolysis than the original neutral molecules.

A nicotinoyl group was readily introduced by the reaction of an alcohol or an amine with an equimolar amount of nicotinic anhydride 5) in dry pyridine. Thus obtained esters or amides were subjected to the Menschutkin reaction in methyl iodide at room temperature. After stirring for a day quarternary salts produced as precipitates were separated. Deprotection was carried out in 0.5 mol dm $^{-3}$ NaHCO $_{3}$ for esters or in 0.5 mol dm $^{-3}$ NaOH for amides at room temperature. The deprotected substrates were extracted with ether, characterized and quantitatively determined with gas chromatography. Yields of protection and deprotection steps and the time required for the hydrolysis of 50% of the substrate are shown in Table 1.

Quarternized nicotinic esters and amides permitted easy alkaline hydrolyses. This enabled the selective cleavage of the nicotinoyl group. The intramolecular ester functions were not affected during the course of introduction and removal of the nicotinoyl group as seen for phenyl salicylate and methyl lactate. Other advantages of the present protective group are as follows; 1)Since quarternized protected substrates are water-soluble crystalline solids, they are readily isolated from the reaction mixture and purified by recrystallization. 2)Deprotected substrates are readily separated from the removed N-methylnicotinate by simple extraction by virtue of the difference in solubility.

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| Table 1. In | troduction | and | removal | of | nicotinoyl | group |
|-------------|------------|-----|---------|----|------------|-------|
|-------------|------------|-----|---------|----|------------|-------|

| Substrate | Introduction Yield/% | N-Methylation Yield/% | Alkaline Yield/% | hydrolysis Time for 50% hydrolysis |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Phenol | 98 | 94 | 98 | 9 min |
| Benzyl Alcohol | 92 | 93 | 94 | 2 h |
| 2-Phenylethanol | 96 | 95 | 98 | 2 h |
| 1-Hexanol | 95 | 94 | 95 | 3 h |
| Phenyl Salicylate | 99 | 95 | 89 | 7 min |
| Methyl Lactate | 93 | 90 | 85 | 2 min |
| Aniline | 99 | 81 | 86 | 18 h |
| 4-Chloroaniline | 98 | 77 | 96 | 55 h |
| Benzylamine | 99 | 93 | 55 | 2 h |

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