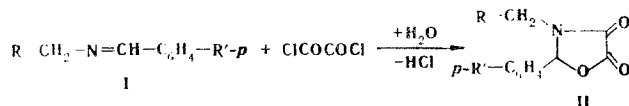


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We have established that alkylidenebenzylamines Ia, b react with oxalyl chloride when the calculated amount of water is added to a solution of the reagents in dioxane to give 3-substituted 2-aryloxazolidine-4,5-diones (IIa-c):



I, II a R=R'=H; b R'=H, R=C₆H₅; c R'=CH₃O, R=C₆H₅

We used this method to obtain oxazolidinediones IIa [in 40% yield with mp 112-113°C (from dioxane)], IIb [in 63% yield with mp 126-127°C (from ethanol)], and IIc [in 47% yield with mp 76-78°C (from ethanol)]. IR spectrum of oxazolidinedione IIa: 1805 (lactam CO) and 1740 cm⁻¹ (amide CO). PMR spectrum of IIa (d₆-acetone): 2.85 (3H, s, CH₃), 6.17 (1H, s, CH), and 7.33 ppm (5H, m, C₆H₅). The mass spectrum of IIa contains a molecular-ion peak [M⁺ 191] and peaks of [M - CO₂] and [M - CO - CO₂] fragment ions, which confirm the presence of an oxazolidine-4,5-dione ring. The spectral characteristics of oxazolidinediones IIb, c have similar character. The results of elementary analysis of the compounds obtained for C, H, and N were in agreement with the calculated values.

The formation of IIa-c is due to partial hydrolysis of the oxalyl chloride. Since oxalyl chloride does not react with IIa-c without the addition of water to the reaction mixture, it is possible that the reaction proceeds through the intermediate formation of an oxiranedione as a result of cyclization of the primary product of hydrolysis of the oxalyl chloride, viz., oxalic acid monochloride.