# The Preparation of α-Phosphonovinylzirconocenes and their Application in the Stereospecific Synthesis of α-Halo-1-alkenylphosphonates

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**Abstract:** Hydrozirconation of 1-alkylnylphosphonates gives the organozirconium(IV) complexes **2** in *syn*-addition way. Complexes **2** was trapped with NCS, NBS or  $I_2$  to afford stereodifined  $\alpha$ -halo-1-alkenylphosphonates in moderate to high yields.

**Keywords:** 1-Alkynylphosphonates, hydrozirconation,  $\alpha$ -halo-1-alkenylphosphonates.

The use of 1-alkynylphosphonates in organic synthesis has attracted increasing interest in recent years  $^1$ . On the other hand, it has become popular to transform alkenylzirconium (IV) complexes to other functional groups with a high level of stereochemical purity  $^2$ . However, no efforts have been focused on the bifunctional ethenyl reagents containing phosphor and zirconium, these compounds are important intermediates in organic synthesis, they can be converted to a variety of  $\alpha$ -substituted-1-alkenylphosphonates. Herein, we wish to report the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -phosphonovinyl zirconocene and their reaction with electrophiles via the hydrozirconation of 1-alkynylphosphonates.

The hydrozirconation of the 1-alkenylphosphonates with 1.0 equiv of  $Cp_2Zr$  (H)Cl in THF for 15 min at room temperature gave a clear solution of **2**. The hydrolysis or deuterolysis of **2** afforded Z-vinylphosphonate **3** or Z-α-deuterovinylphosphonate **4**, respectively (**Scheme 1**). For example, the hydrozirconation-hydrolysis of 1-hexenylphosphonate afforded Z-vinylphosphonate **3b.** The <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectrum of 1-hexenylphosphonate exhibits a ddt peak at  $\delta$  6.56 ( ${}^3J_{HP}$  =53Hz,  ${}^3J_{CH2CH=C}$  =7.6Hz,  ${}^3J_{CH=CH}$ =13.0Hz) and dd peak at  $\delta$  5.58. The Z-olefinic geometry of **3b** was verified by the coupling constant of the vicinal olefinic protons and the coupling constant of β-vinylhydron and phosphor atom ( ${}^3J_{HH}$  =13.0Hz,  ${}^3J_{HP}$  =53 Hz). In addition, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the product is also identical to the previous reported<sup>3</sup>. After the parallel experiment of hydrozirconation-deuterolysis, the disappearance of the dd peak at

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 $\delta$  6.26 shows that the deuterium must be attached to the  $\alpha$ -position of the phosphonate group. The hydrozirconation of other 1-alkenylphosphonates gives the similar results.

Complexes 2 can react with various electrophiles such as NCS, NBS,  $I_2$  to give stereodefined  $\alpha$ -halo-vinylphosphonates (**Scheme 2, Table 1**), which are a class of important synthetic intermediates and useful reagents for the synthesis of biologically active compounds or as investigative reagents<sup>4</sup>.

#### Scheme 2

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} R \\ H \end{array}\right] \xrightarrow{P(O)(OEt)_2} \left[\begin{array}{c} NCS, NBS \text{ or } I_2 \\ rt, 30 \text{ min} \end{array}\right] \xrightarrow{R} \left[\begin{array}{c} P(O)(OEt)_2 \\ X \end{array}\right]$$

2 a-c 5 a-i

Table 1 Reaction of 2 with electrophiles

Entry	R	E-X a	Product	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	$MeOCH_2$	NCS	5a	73
2	$MeOCH_2$	NBS	5b	68
3	$MeOCH_2$	$I_2$	5c	70
4	n-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	NCS	5d	57
5	n-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	NBS	5e	61
6	n-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	$I_2$	5f	67
7	$n-C_5H_{11}$	NCS	5g	64
8	$n-C_5H_{11}$	NBS	5h	70
9	n-C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	$I_2$	5i	63

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: E-X (1.0 equiv.), THF, rt, 30 min.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Isolated yields based on 1-alkynylphosphonates.

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In summary, we have studied the hydrozirconation of 1-alkynylphosphonates and the reaction of organozirconium (IV) complexs  ${\bf 2}$  with electrophiles such as NCS, NBS, and  $I_2$ . This procedure provides a facile route to the synthesis of stereodefined  $\alpha$ -halo-vinylphosphonates

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