

SYNTHETIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF DIMETHYL
PERFLUORO-4-METHYL-2-PENTENEDIOATE*

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Reaction of the title compound *I* with methanolic sodium methoxide proceeded with decarboxylation and substitution of the vinylic fluorine atom, the resulting product being methyl 2,4,5,5,5-pentafluoro-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate (*II*). Compound *I* reacted with chlorine to give dimethyl 2,3-dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (*III*) which was selectively hydrolyzed to potassium 1-methyl 2,3-dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (*IV*). This ester salt was transformed in two steps into methyl 2,3-dichloro-4-fluoroformylhexafluoropentanoate (*VIII*). Pyrolysis of *IV* afforded methyl 2-chlorohexafluoro-3-pentanoate (*V*). Reduction of the diester *III* with sodium borohydride led to 3-chloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-2-hydroxymethyl-4-trifluoromethylloxolane (*IX*) and 2,3-dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-1,5-pentane diol (*X*).

In this communication we compare reactions of dimethyl perfluoro-4-methyl-2-pentenedioate (*I*), prepared by anionic dimerization¹ of methyl trifluoropropenoate, with those of halogenoacrylates. We used the dimer *I* in syntheses of some new compounds.

We studied qualitatively²⁻⁴ the reactivity of fluorinated propenoates towards nucleophilic reagents using the base-catalyzed reaction with methanol. It was found²⁻⁴ that propenoates with a terminal difluoromethylene group added methanol even in the presence of weak bases such as fluoride ions. On the contrary, propenoates containing a chlorine atom⁴ or a methoxycarbonyl group⁵ in position 3 did not react under these conditions. In accord with these findings, no addition of methanol to the double bond of the dimer *I* occurred in the presence of potassium fluoride. With sodium methoxide as catalyst the reaction afforded methyl 2,4,5,5,5-pentafluoro-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate (*II*) as the only isolated product. Its structure shows that the dimer *I* underwent a substitution at the double bond together with replacement of the methoxycarbonyl group by hydrogen. The fluorine atom at the double bond was substituted probably by a multistep vinyl substitution mechanism⁶, similarly as in the case of the mentioned difluoropropenoates^{4,5} with substituents in position 3. Perfluorocarboxylic acids or esters are known to lose the carboxyl carbon in both

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ture, the diester *III* was hydrolyzed to the ester salt *IV* practically immediately, the excess base being consumed only very slowly. The fact that hydrolysis of the compound *III* was not accompanied by decarboxylation shows the dominant role of the double bond in the decarboxylation mechanism (as observed with the dimer *I*). The reactivity of the second carboxyl in compound *I* is suppressed by its conjugation with the double bond^{23,24}. The diester *III* was converted into the ester salt *IV* also by reaction with carbonates or alkali metal hydroxides²⁵ under similar conditions.

The ester salt *IV* was transformed into methyl 2,3-dichloro-4-fluoroformylhexafluoropentanoate (*VIII*) by the following series of reactions. Acidification of *IV* with sulfuric acid liberated 1-methyl hydrogen 2,3-dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (*VI*) which was converted into methyl 2,3-dichloro-4-chloroformylhexafluoropentanoate (*VII*) by pyridine-catalyzed reaction with thionyl chloride²⁶. Nucleophilic replacement of chlorine by fluorine (with potassium fluoride) gave the ester fluoride *VIII*.

Pyrolysis of alkali metal salts of perfluorocarboxylic acids affords fluorinated olefins²⁷⁻²⁹. This decomposition obviously proceeds by a carbanion mechanism in which the last step consists in elimination of fluoride ion. Usually, potassium salts afford a mixture of isomeric olefins^{27,28}. In the case of compound *IV* the halogen could be in principle cleaved off from the trifluoromethyl or chlorofluoromethylene group. In actual fact, pyrolysis of the ester salt *IV* at 300°C gave methyl 2-chlorohexafluoro-3-pentenoate (*V*) as the sole product. This result confirmed⁶ that elimination of chloride ions is much more facile than that of fluoride ions.

Reduction of the diester *III* with sodium borohydride afforded a 2 : 1 mixture of 3-chloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-2-hydroxymethyl-4-trifluoromethyloxolane (*IX*) and 2,3-dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-1,5-pentenediol (*X*).

EXPERIMENTAL

The temperature data are uncorrected. IR spectra were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 325 spectrometer (Bodenseewerk), NMR spectra on a Varian XL-100-15 instrument (Palo Alto, USA) in deuteriochloroform (¹⁹F NMR spectra with CCl₃F as standard). Gas-liquid chromatography was carried out on a Chrom 41 chromatograph (Laboratorní přístroje, Prague); flame-ionization detector, Chromaton N-AW-DMCS (Lachema, Brno). Chemicals: Dimethyl perfluoro-4-methyl-2-pentenedioate (*I*) was prepared as described previously^{1,2}. Acetonitrile was purified and dried as described in our previous work¹. Structure of the new compounds *II*, *III*, *V*, *IX* and *X* was confirmed by NMR and IR spectra and elemental analyses.

Methyl 2,4,5,5-Pentafluoro-3-methoxy-2-pentenoate (*II*)

A solution of sodium methoxide in methanol was added dropwise to a cooled mixture of the dimer *I* (5.5 g; 19.6 mmol) and methanol (6.3 g; 196 mmol) until no starting material was detected by gas liquid chromatography (poly(butanediol succinate), 160°C). The mixture was diluted with 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane (50 ml), washed with water, dried over anhydrous

calcium chloride and distilled, affording 3.65 g (64%) of compound *II*, b.p. 56–61°C/6.7 kPa; purity 98%. ^1H NMR spectrum: (shift in ppm, s singlet, d doublet, t triplet, q quartet, m multiplet, coupling constants J in Hz): s (3), 3.88, d (3) 4.05, dqd (1) 6.52 $^2J_{\text{HF}}$ 42, $^3J_{\text{HF}}$ 6. ^{19}F NMR spectrum: dq(1) –206.4, s(1) –144.1, dd(3) –76.4 $^3J_{\text{FF}}$ 13. IR spectrum (tetrachloromethane, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})$ 1 660 s, $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$, 1 734 s, 1 748 s. For $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{F}_5\text{O}_3$ (234.1) calculated: 35.91% C, 3.01% H, 40.58% F; found: 36.46% C, 2.98% H, 39.58% F.

Dimethyl 2,3-Dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (*III*)

A mixture of the dimer *I* (35.2 g; 0.126 mol) and 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane (100 ml) was chlorinated under irradiation with a mercury lamp (Pyrex filter) until 90% conversion (gas-liquid chromatography on SE-301; 190°C) was achieved. After washing with a solution of sodium sulfite and water the solution was dried over magnesium sulfate, taken down and distilled, affording 39.0 g (89%) of the diester *III*, b.p. 124–128°C/1.6 kPa; purity 94%. ^1H NMR spectrum: s(6) 3.94. ^{19}F NMR spectrum: m(1) –169.2, m(1) –122.3, m(1) –120.1, m(3) –70.9. IR spectrum (tetrachloromethane, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ 1 795 s. For $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_6\text{O}_4$ (351.0) calculated: 27.37% C, 1.72% H, 20.20% Cl, 32.57% F; found: 26.17% C, 1.57% H, 21.06% Cl, 31.89% F.

Potassium 1-Methyl 2,3-Dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (*IV*)

Methanolic potassium hydroxide was added dropwise to a solution of the ester *III* (10.4 g; 26 mmol) in methanol until the red colouration of phenolphthalein (added as an indicator) persisted. The mixture was taken down and the residue crystallized from methanol. Yield 10.1 g (93%) of the ester salt *IV*; m.p. <250°C. For $\text{C}_7\text{H}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_6\text{KO}_4$ (374.1) calculated: 22.40% C, 0.80% H, 19.95% Cl, 30.42% F; found 21.72% C, 0.64% H, 19.80% Cl, 30.32% F.

Methyl 2-Chlorohexafluoro-3-pentenoate (*V*)

The ester salt *IV* (4.5 g; 12 mmol) was heated to 300°C at 2.7 kPa for 2.5 h and the volatile products were collected in a receiver cooled with dry ice. Distillation afforded 0.98 g (32%) of the ester *V*, b.p. 58–61°C/2 kPa; purity 95%. ^1H NMR spectrum: s(2) 3.98. ^{19}F NMR spectrum: *cis*-isomer: m(1) –143.5, dmm(2) –108.8, m(3) –75.3; *trans*-isomer: dmm(2) –156.9, m(1) –143.5, m(3) –75.3. For $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{ClF}_6\text{O}_2$ (256.5) calculated: 28.09% C, 1.18% H, 13.82% Cl, 44.44% F; found: 28.63% C, 1.27% H, 13.18% Cl, 43.22% F.

1-Methyl Hydrogen 2,3-Dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (*VI*)

Sulfuric acid (4.1 ml of 1.4M- H_2SO_4 in 1,2-dimethoxyethane) was added dropwise to the ester salt *IV* (4.3 g; 11.5 mmol) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (1.5 ml). After stirring for 0.5 h, the insoluble portion was filtered off and distillation of the filtrate gave 3.5 g (86%) of the compound *VI*, b.p. 115–120°C/20 Pa. ^1H NMR spectrum: s(3) 3.88, s(1) 9.94. ^{19}F NMR spectrum: m(1) –168.0, m(1) –123.3, m(1) –119.4, m(3) –70.9. For $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_6\text{O}_4$ (337.0) calculated: 24.95% C, 1.20% H, 21.04% Cl, 33.82% F; found: 25.48% C, 1.41% H, 21.40% Cl, 33.18% F.

Methyl 2,3-Dichloro-4-chloroformyl-hexafluoropentanoate (*VII*)

A mixture of the compound *VI* (3.5 g; 9.8 mmol), thionyl chloride (2.0 g; 16.8 mmol) and pyridine (50 mg; 0.8 mmol) was refluxed for 8 h. Distillation afforded 2.0 g (55%) of ester chloride *VII*, b.p. 68–76°C/1.3 kPa. Methanolysis of a sample of *VII* gave the diester *III*.

Methyl 2,3-Dichloro-4-fluoroformylhexafluoropentanoate (VIII)

A mixture of acetonitrile (4 ml), potassium fluoride (0.62 g; 10.7 mmol) and the ester chloride VII (1.09 g; 3.1 mmol) was stirred at 25–30°C under nitrogen for 16 h, the solid was filtered off and the filtrate distilled, yielding 0.58 g (56%) of the ester fluoride VIII, b.p. 130–140°C. A sample of the product was hydrolyzed and analyzed for fluorides. For $C_7H_3Cl_2F_7O_4$ (339.0) calculated: 5.61% $F^{(-)}$; found: 5.59% $F^{(-)}$.

Reduction of Dimethyl 2,3-Dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethylpentanedioate (III) with Sodium Borohydride

A solution of the diester III (25.0 g; 0.079 mol) in ethanol (50 ml) was added dropwise at 0°C to a stirred solution of sodium borohydride (5.6 g; 0.158 mol) in ethanol (150 ml), the temperature being kept below 10°C. After stirring for 4 h at 35°C, the mixture was decomposed with hydrochloric acid (22 ml; 1 : 1) and the precipitate dissolved by addition of water. The products were taken up in dichloromethane (4×50 ml) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. Distillation afforded 6.7 g (33%) of 3-chloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-2-hydroxymethyl-4-trifluoromethyl-oxolane (IX), b.p. 50–53°C/2.7 kPa, purity 90%, and 4.35 g (19%) of 2,3-dichloro-2,3,4-trifluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-1,5-pentanediol (X), b.p. 110–114°C/2.7 kPa, purity 90%. Gas-liquid chromatography: poly(butanediol succinate), 180°C. 1H NMR spectra compound IX: s(1) 3.23, d(2) 4.01 $^3J_{HF}$ 3, d(2) 4.21 $^3J_{HF}$ 2; compound X: s(2) 3.56, m(2) 4.24, m(2) 5.21 $^3J_{HF}$ 11. ^{19}F NMR spectra compound IX: ddq(1) –163.4, dm(1) –151.7, ddm(1) –129.5, dd(3) –68.8; compound X: m(1) –193.7, m(1) –139.7, m(1) –123.8, d(3) –69.8 $^3J_{FF}$ 10. IR spectra (tetrachloromethane, cm^{-1}) compound IX: $\nu(OH)$ 3 480 m, 3 630 m; compound X: $\nu(OH)$ 3 585 m, 3 625 m. For IX $C_6H_5ClF_6O_2$ (258.6) calculated: 27.87% C, 1.95% H, 13.71% Cl, 44.09% F; found: 26.99% C, 2.00% H, 14.76% Cl, 44.92% F. For X $C_6H_6Cl_2F_6O_2$ (295.1) calculated: 24.20% C, 2.03% H, 23.07% Cl, 38.64% F; found: 25.12% C, 2.36% H, 22.58% Cl, 37.26% F.

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