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Carboxylic anhydrides-orthoesters —novel reagent systems for derivatization of aminoalkanephosphonic acids for characterization by gas chromatography and mass spectrometry. III[☆]

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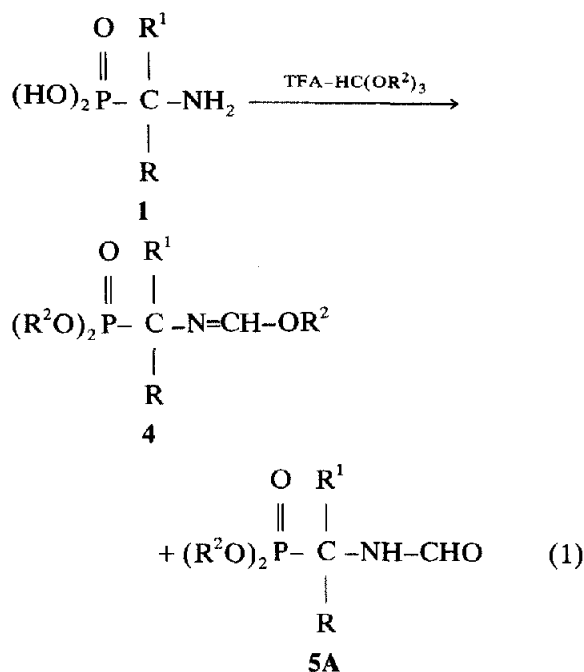
Abstract

Studies of the derivatization of aminoalkanephosphonic acids by means of carboxylic anhydrides-trialkyl orthoester systems are reported. Gas chromatographic separations of mixtures of derivatized 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids and low-resolution electron impact mass spectra for the derivatives studied are presented.

1. Introduction

Phosphonic acids bearing amino functions have been found to possess substantial importance in pure, applied and environmental chemistry owing to their chelating [1,2] and biological properties [3,4]. For these reasons, their determination, mainly based on chromatographic methods, is of current interest in the analytical chemistry of organophosphorus compounds [5-7].

Recently we reported on the scope of the derivatization of 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids (**1**) by means of trialkyl orthoformates [8,9], according to the equation



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where TFA = trifluoroacetic acid. The volatile derivatives **4** and **5** have been found to be the suitable models for analysis by gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC–MS), similarly to their amino ester analogues **3** [10]. However, the formation of two sets of derivatives **4** and **5** during the derivatization of **1** is a limitation of this procedure, especially in the analysis of more complex mixtures of **1**.

In this paper, we report another approach, involving the derivatization of 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids (**1**) into the volatile N-acylaminoalkanephosphonates (**5**), which is based on the use of carboxylic anhydride–trialkyl orthoformate systems. This two-step, one-pot procedure is described by the general scheme presented in Eq. 2.

{The 1-(N-formylamino)alkanephosphonates **2AA*** and **2AB*** were described in previous papers [8,9].} An illustration of the GC–MS characteristics of the N-acylaminoalkanephosphonates **5** is also presented.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials

Acetic acid, acetic anhydride, trimethyl orthoacetate, triethyl orthoformate, trimethyl orthoformate, trifluoroacetic acid and trifluoroacetic anhydride were purchased from Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI, USA). 1-Aminoalkanephosphonic acids (**1**) were prepared according to Ref. [11]

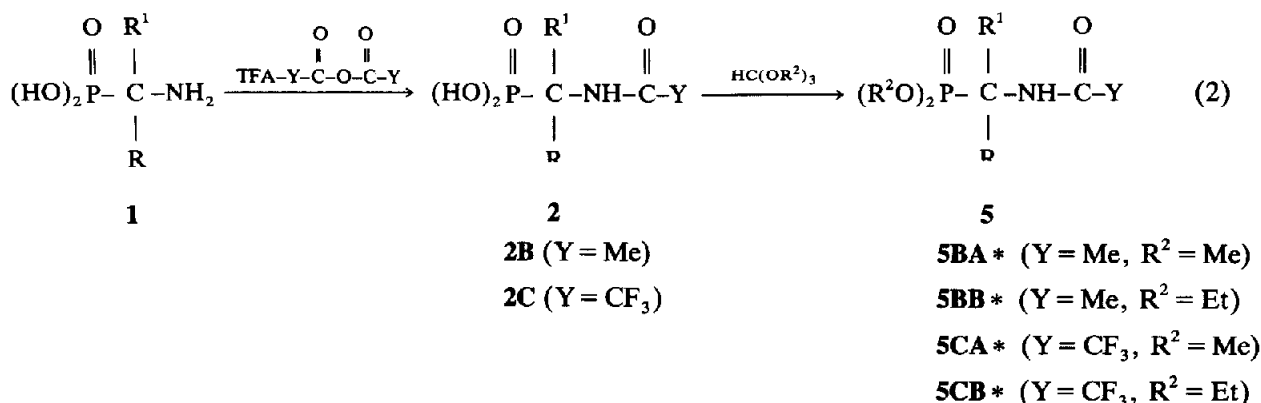
and phosphonoglycine (**1a**) according to Ref. [12]. All aminoalkanephosphonic acids were of the purity reported previously [11,12].

2.2. Preparation of derivatives **5**

The conversions of 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids (**1**) into the volatile derivatives **5** were carried out in a Wheaton 1-ml micro product V-vial, equipped with a spin vane, placed in a thermostated oil-bath.

In order to prepare a series of 1-(N-acetylamino)alkanephosphonates (**5B**), samples of **1** (0.1–5 mg) were dissolved in acetic acid (0.05 ml)–acetic anhydride (0.05 ml) and the resulting solutions were heated with stirring at 100°C for 10 min. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to ca. 40–50°C and trialkyl orthoformate (0.4 ml) or trialkyl orthoacetate (0.4 ml) was added. The resulting mixtures were stirred at 100°C for 1.5 h (the derivatizations were usually completed after 1 h) and after this time the reaction mixtures were analysed by GC and/or GC–MS.

For the preparation of 1-(N-trifluoroacetylamino)alkanephosphonates (**5C**), samples of **1** (0.1–5 mg) were dissolved in trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) (0.05 ml)–trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.05 ml) and the solutions were heated with stirring for 10 min at 30–40°C. Then trialkyl orthoformate (0.40 ml) was carefully added and the resulting mixtures were stirred at 100°C for 1.5 h (the derivatizations were usually completed after 1 h).



2.3. Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry

A Finnigan MAT 95 mass spectrometer was used for GC–MS analysis of the multi-component mixture of derivatives. Sample introduction was via a Varian 3400 gas chromatograph equipped with a 30 m × 0.25 mm I.D. capillary column coated with BP-17. The column temperature was 100°C for 3 min, then increased at 10°C min⁻¹ to 250°C. The injector temperature was maintained at 200°C and the transfer line temperature was 250°C. The column was introduced directly into the ion source of the mass spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded at an electron energy of 70 eV.

2.4. ³¹P NMR

³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC 200 spectrometer operating at 81.01 MHz.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Derivatization

The esterification of aminoalkanephosphonic acids (**1**) by means of trialkyl orthoformates afforded a mixture of forminoalkoxy (**4**) and N-formyl derivatives (**5**) according to Eq. 1 [8,9]. It was found that both the structure of **1** and the nature of the acidic catalyst exert a substantial influence on the course and the rate of derivatization [9]. Thus, 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids with primary and secondary amino groups reacted with the TFA–trialkyl orthoformate system smoothly, with formation of corresponding amido esters. On the other hand, the esterification of 1-(N,N-dialkylamino)alkanephosphonic acids occurs much more slowly [8], which suggests that the formylation of the amino group in **1** constitutes the key step in the whole esterifica-

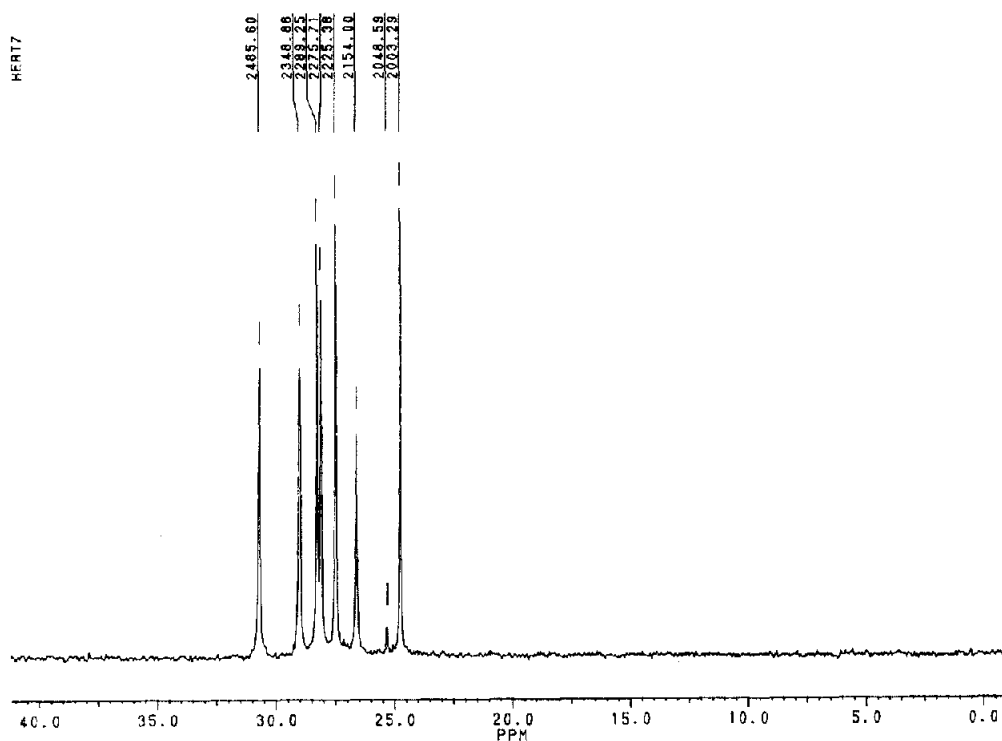
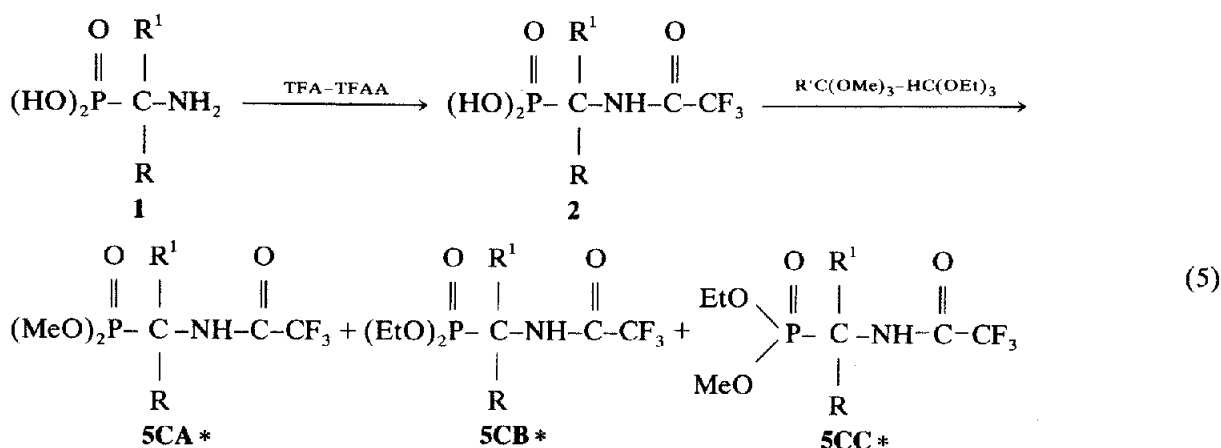


Fig. 1. ³¹P NMR spectrum of the derivatization products **5BA*** (**a–g**) of the mixture of aminophosphonic acids [aminomethylenephosphonic (**1a**), 1-aminoethanephosphonic (**1b**), 1-aminopropanephosphonic (**1c**), 1-amino-1-methylethanephosphonic (**1d**), 1-aminopentanephosphonic (**1e**), 1-aminophenylmethanephosphonic (**1f**) and 1-amino-2-phenylethanephosphonic acid (**1g**)] obtained by means of acetic acid–acetic anhydride and trimethyl orthoacetate. Conditions as described under Experimental.



The relative amounts of the amido esters **5CA*** (O,O-dimethyl), **5CB*** (O,O-diethyl) and mixed **5CC*** (O-methyl-O-ethyl) formed reflected the alkylation capability of all the types of orthoesters towards the phosphonic function. Thus, the alkylation rate of derivatives **2** by means of these orthoesters generally exhibit the orders $\text{HC}(\text{OMe})_3 < \text{HC}(\text{OEt})_3 \approx$

$\text{MeC}(\text{OMe})_3$ for N-TFA-aminoalkanephosphonic acids (**2C**) and $\text{HC}(\text{OMe})_3 \approx \text{MeC}(\text{OMe})_3 < \text{HC}(\text{OEt})_3$ for N-acetylaminoalkanephosphonic acids (**2B**).

A similar approach based on the prior trifluoroacetylation of **1** in the two-stage procedures for their esterification was also applied in the methods elaborated by Ruppel *et al.* [13] and

Table 1
Comparison with other methods of aminoalkanephosphonic acid derivatization

Conversion to derivative	Reagent	Time (h)	Temperature (°C)	Range (mg)	Ref.
(I) O,O-Dibutyl 1-(N-TFA-amino)alkane phosphonate	(Ms. pr.) (1) TFA-TFAA (2) Diazobutane	ca. 3 1 0.2	40 20	0.25–10	[13]
(II) O,O-Diethyl 1-(N-TFA-amino)alkane phosphonate	(Ms. pr.) (1) TFA-TFAA (20) $\text{HC}(\text{OEt})_3$	ca. 10 1 8	20 >130	10	[14]
(III) O,O-Diethyl 1-(N-formylamino)alkane phosphonate	(One-pot pr.) TFA- $\text{HC}(\text{OEt})_3$	2	120	0.1–5	[9]
(IV) (IVa) O,O-Dialkyl 1-(N-acetylamino) alkanephosphonate	(One-pot pr.) (1) $\text{AcOH}-\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$ (1a) $\text{HC}(\text{OR})_3$ or $\text{MeC}(\text{OR})_3$	ca. 2 0.2 1.5	100 100	0.1–5	This work
(IVb) O,O-Dialkyl 1-(N-TFA-amino)alkane phosphonates	(1) TFA-TFAA (1a) $\text{HC}(\text{OR})_3$	0.2 1.5	30–40 100		

Abbreviations: Ac = acetyl; Ac_2O = acetic anhydride; TFA = trifluoroacetic acid; TFAA = trifluoroacetic anhydride; N-TFA = N-trifluoroacetyl; Ms. pr. = multi-stage procedure; One-pot pr. = one-pot procedure.

Huber [14]. The comparison of the present method with those procedures is given in Table 1.

Optimization of the reaction conditions was carried out using ^{31}P NMR monitoring. These investigations revealed the complete conversion of aminoalkanephosphonic acids **1** into the corresponding diester derivatives **5**. The ^{31}P NMR spectra of the derivatization products (**5BA*** and **5CB***) of **1** obtained with the carboxylic anhydride–orthoester systems are presented in Figs. 1 and 2. The phosphorus chemical shifts for all the derivatives obtained, **5BA***, **5BB***, **5CA*** and **5CB***, are given in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2
 ^{31}P NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm) of N-acetylaminoalkane phosphonates **5B** (**5BA*** and **5BB***)

Starting amino acid 1		5B derivatives	
No.	R ($\text{R}^1 \neq \text{H}$)	P(O)(OMe) ₂	P(O)(OEt) ₂
1a	H	26.6	23.2
1b	Me	29.1	25.6
1c	Et	28.3	25.0
1d	Me (Me)	31.0	27.6
1e	Bu	28.1	24.7
1f	Ph	24.8	21.6
1g	PhCH ₂	27.5	24.1

Table 3
 ^{31}P NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm) of N-trifluoroacetylaminoalkane phosphonates **5C** (**5CA*** and **5CB***)

Starting amino acid 1		5C derivatives	
No.	R ($\text{R}^1 \neq \text{H}$)	P(O)(OMe) ₂	P(O)(OEt) ₂
1a	H	25.4	21.3
1b	Me	26.8	24.4
1c	Et	26.3	23.8
1d	Me (Me)	28.5	26.3
1e	Bu	26.0	23.6
1f	Ph	22.6	20.5
1g	PhCH ₂	24.6	23.0

3.2. Chromatographic properties of derivatives **5**

The derivatives **5** can be stored for several weeks at 0°C without extensive decomposition (^{31}P NMR) and have been found to be suitable for characterization by means of GC. These compounds give reproducible retention data. The separation of derivatives **5** from derivatization of the mixture of 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids **1a**, **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1f** and **1g**, achieved on a DB-17 column, is presented in Figs. 3 and 4.

The DB-17 column was suitable for the separations of all the N-acylaminoalkane phosphonates **5BA*** and **5BB***. The higher polarity of N-trifluoroacetylamino derivatives **5CA*** and **5CB*** had the result that, in two cases (Fig. 4) (**5CB*d** and **5CB*b**; **5CB*a** and **5CB*c**), the overlapping effect occurred. This suggests that, for better separation, a column of higher polarity should be used (e.g., DB-225).

The elution of the amidoalkane phosphonates **5** did not follow the order of their molecular masses. The derivatives **5d** appeared first, then the others in the order **5b**, **5c**, **5a**, **5e**, **5f** and **5g** (in all four series of derivatives **5**, i.e. **5BA***, **5BB***, **5CA*** and **5CB***). The comparison of the retention times of acetyl (**5B**) and trifluoroacetyl derivatives (**5C**), and also different O-alkyl amidoalkane phosphonates (**5CA***, **5CB*** and **5CC***) revealed the following orders of increasing retention times: **5B** > **5C** and **5CA*** < **5CC*** < **5CB***.

3.3. Mass spectral properties of N-acylaminoalkane phosphonates **5**

The partial mass spectra of N-acyl derivatives **5** are summarized in Tables 4–8.

The N-acylaminoalkane phosphonates **5** present distinct structural differences caused by (a) the constitution of the acyl group, (b) the type of O-alkyl phosphonate function and (c) the type of hydrocarbon side-chain attached to C_α. However, in spite of these structural differences, the whole group present some common features, which are reflected in their fragmentation patterns, and consequently determine the shape of all the mass spectra.

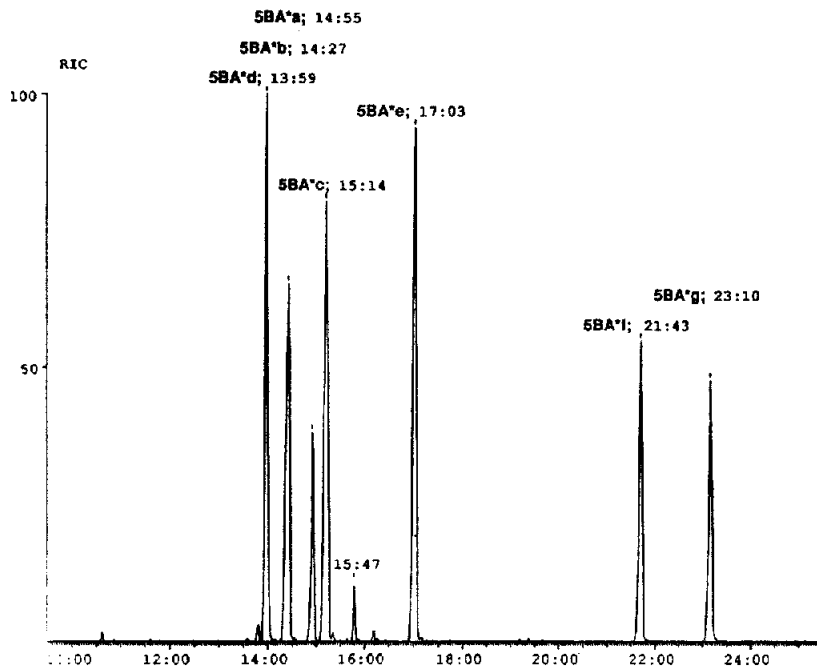


Fig. 3. GC–MS analysis of the derivatization products **5BA** * (a–g) of the mixture of aminophosphonic acids **1a**, **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1f** and **1g** obtained by means of acetic acid–acetic anhydride and trimethyl orthoacetate. Conditions as described under Experimental. The ^{31}P NMR spectrum of the derivatization products of this reaction mixture is presented in Fig. 1.

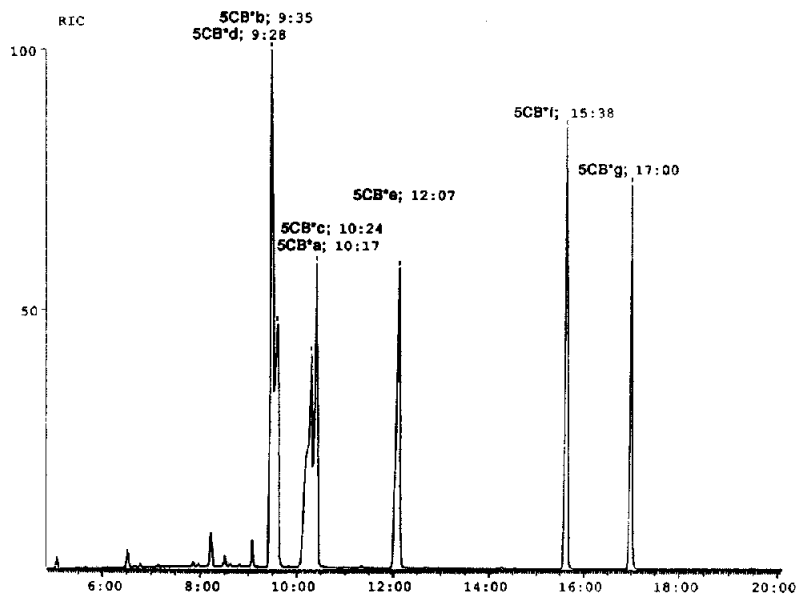


Fig. 4. GC–MS analysis of the derivatization products **5CB** * (a–g) of the mixture of aminophosphonic acids **1a**, **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1f** and **1g** obtained by means of trifluoroacetic acid–trifluoroacetic anhydride and triethyl orthoformate. Conditions as described under Experimental. The ^{31}P NMR spectrum of the derivatization products of this reaction mixture is presented in Fig. 3.

Table 4
Reduced mass spectra of O,O-dimethyl 1-(acetylamino)alkane phosphonates SBA *

No.	R (R' ≠ H)	Molecular formula (mass)	Mass spectrometry: <i>m/z</i> (relative intensity, %)										RCH=NH ₂ ⁺ [R + 29]
			M	M - MeO [M - 31]	M - R	[M - 42]	M - Ac [M - 43]	M - NHAc [M - 58]	M - (MeO) ₂ PO [M - 109]	Phosphonyl-derived ions ^a			
									[110]	[95]	[79]		
SBA *a	H	C ₅ H ₁₂ NPO ₄ (181.1)	181 (4.2)	150 (8.9)	180 (-)	140 (0.2)	139 (2.0)	124 (10)	72 (31)	110 (90)	95 (13)	79 (21)	30 (100)
SBA *b	CH ₃	C ₆ H ₁₄ NPO ₄ (195.1)	195 (2.0)	164 (0.5)	180 (0.5)	153 (0.5)	152 (6.5)	138 (2.6)	86 (64)	110 (17)	95 (3.5)	79 (6.1)	44 (100)
SBA *c	C ₂ H ₅	C ₇ H ₁₆ NPO ₄ (209.2)	209 (1.7)	178 (0.2)	180 (0.2)	167 (0.2)	166 (1.6)	152 (0.5)	100 (56)	110 (8.2)	95 (1.7)	80 (2.9)	58 (100)
SBA *d	CH ₃ (CH ₃)	C ₇ H ₁₆ NPO ₄ (209.2)	209 (0.5)	178 (0.5)	180 (-)	167 (0.1)	166 (2.5)	152 (2.4)	100 (74)	110 (5.0)	95 (1.3)	80 (2.0)	58 (100)
SBA *e	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	C ₉ H ₂₀ NPO ₄ (237.2)	237 (1.8)	206 (0.1)	180 ^b (0.2)	195 ^c (0.9)	194 (1.3)	166 (2.5)	128 (64)	110 (4.6)	95 (1.0)	80 (1.7)	86 (100)
SBA *f	C ₆ H ₅	C ₁₁ H ₁₈ NPO ₄ (257.2)	257 (7.2)	226 (0.1)	180 (0.1)	215 ^c (2.9)	214 (5.1)	200 (1.6)	148 (61)	110 (3.0)	95 (0.9)	80 (1.3)	106 (100)
SBA *g	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₁₂ H ₂₀ NPO ₄ (271.2)	271 (2.2)	240 (0.2)	180 (4.8)	229 (0.1)	228 (0.5)	214 (2.9)	162 (26)	110 (4.5)	95 (0.2)	80 (1.8)	120 (100)

^a (MeO)₂POH [110], (MeO)P(O)(OH) [95], PO₃ [79].

^b [181]; (1.3%).

^c [M - CH₂CO].

Table 5
Reduced mass spectra of O₃O₂-diethyl 1-(acetylamino)alkanephosphonates **SBB** *

No.	R (R ¹ ≠ H)	Molecular formula (mass)	Mass spectrometry: m/z (relative intensity, %)										RCH=NH ⁺ [R + 29]		
			M	M - EtO [M - 45]	M - R	M - Ac [M - 43]	M - NAc [M - 57]	M - (EtO) ₂ PO [M - 137]	Phosphonyl-derived ions ^a						
												[138]	[111]	[82]	
SBB * a	H	C ₇ H ₁₆ NPO ₄ (209.2)	209	164 (14.0)	208	167 ^b (5.8)	166 (7.4)	152 (6.2)	72 (23)	138 (100)	111 (54)	82 (21)	82	30	
SBB * b	CH ₃	C ₈ H ₁₈ NPO ₄ (223.2)	223	178 (3.8)	208	181 (1.4)	180 (23.0)	166 (1.8)	86 (73)	138 (30)	111 (33)	82 (15)	82	44	
SBB * c	C ₂ H ₅	C ₉ H ₂₀ NPO ₄ (237.1)	237	192 (1.7)	208	195 (0.4)	194 (3.1)	180 (0.7)	100 (70)	138 (12)	111 (12)	82 (5)	82	58	
SBB * d	CH ₃ (CH ₃)	C ₉ H ₂₀ NPO ₄ (237.1)	237	192 (2.4)	208	195 (0.3)	194 (8.2)	180 (2.5)	100 (74)	138 (5.0)	111 (7.1)	82 (4.6)	82	58	
SBB * e	n-C ₄ H ₉	C ₁₁ H ₂₄ NPO ₄ (265.3)	265	220 (1.2)	208	223 ^b (2.3)	222 (2.8)	208 (0.4)	128 (64)	138 (5.4)	111 (5.6)	82 (3.7)	82	86	
SBB * f	C ₆ H ₅	C ₁₃ H ₂₀ NPO ₄ (285.3)	285	240 (0.9)	208	243 ^b (1.8)	242 (5.1)	228 (-)	148 (61)	138 (1.4)	111 (2.9)	82 (3.0)	82	106	
SBB * g	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₁₄ H ₂₂ NPO ₄ (299.3)	299	254 (1.7)	208	257 (-)	256 (0.3)	242 ^c (0.2)	162 ^d (26)	138 (20)	111 (4.2)	82 (4.2)	82	120	

* (EtO)₂POH [138], (EtO)P(H)(OH)₂ [111], H₃PO₃ [82].

^b M - CH₃CO

^c [241]; (0.2%) and [240]; (18%).

^d [161]; (100%).

Table 6
Reduced mass spectra of O,O-dimethyl 1-(trifluoroacetylamino)alkane phosphonates 5CA*

No.	R (R' ≠ H)	Molecular formula (mass)	Mass spectrometry: <i>m/z</i> (relative intensity, %)											
			M	M - MeO [M - 31]	M - R	M - CF ₃ [M - 69]	M - TEA [M - 97]	M - (MeO) ₂ PO [M - 109]	Phosphonyl-derived ions ^a			CF ₃ [69]	RCH=NH ₂ [R + 29]	
5CA *a	H	C ₈ H ₉ F ₃ NPO ₄ (235.1)	235 (16.0)	204 (2.3)	234 (-)	166 (66.0)	140 (4.7)	126 (26)	110 ^d (100)	95 (17)	80 (22)	79 (44)	69 (19)	30 (-)
5CA *b	CH ₃	C ₉ H ₁₁ F ₃ NPO ₄ (249.1)	249 (1.4)	217 (-)	234 (-)	180 (0.8)	154 (0.3)	140 (20)	110 (100)	95 (8.9)	80 (17)	79 (14)	69 (9.8)	44 (0.4)
5CA *c	C ₂ H ₅	C ₇ H ₁₃ F ₃ NPO ₄ (263.1)	263 (2.7)	232 (0.2)	234 (1.1)	194 (1.1)	166 (0.3)	154 (22)	110 (100)	95 (5.0)	80 (11)	79 (9.7)	69 (5.1)	58 (0.2)
5CA *d	CH ₃ (CH ₃)	C ₇ H ₁₃ F ₃ NPO ₄ (263.1)	263 (4.6)	232 (0.2)	234 ^b (-)	194 (0.7)	166 (4.0)	154 (91)	110 (100)	95 (7.8)	80 (18)	79 (13)	69 (11)	58 (0.5) ^e
5CA *e	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	C ₉ H ₁₇ F ₃ NPO ₄ (291.2)	291 (0.4)	260 (0.2)	234 ^c (0.4)	222 (0.5)	194 (0.2)	182 (17)	110 (100)	95 (3.4)	80 (22)	79 (8.4)	69 (22)	86 (0.2)
5CA *f	C ₆ H ₅	C ₁₁ H ₁₅ F ₃ NPO ₄ (311.2)	311 (29.0)	280 (0.2)	234 (-)	242 (-)	214 (1.6)	202 (100)	110 (16)	95 (1.8)	80 (4)	79 (12)	69 (4.2)	106 ^f (0.1)
5CA *g	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₁₂ H ₁₇ F ₃ NPO ₄ (325.2)	325 (25.0)	294 (2.5)	234 (2.5)	256 (-)	228 (-)	215 (100)	110 (11)	95 (1.6)	80 (2.3)	79 (6.1)	69 (1.7)	120 (1.3)

* (MeO)₂POH [110], (MeO)P(O)(OH) [95], HPO₃ [80], PO₃ [79].

^b [248]; (1.1%).

^c [235]; (7.1%).

^d [109]; (60%).

^e [59]; (24%).

^f [107]; (16%).

Table 7
Reduced mass spectra of O,O-diethyl 1-(trifluoroacetylamino)alkane phosphonates 5CB *

No.	R (R' ≠ H)	Molecular formula (mass)	Mass spectrometry: <i>m/z</i> (relative intensity, %)										
			M	M-R	M-EtO	M-CF ₃	M-TFA	M-NHTFA	M-(EtO) ₂ PO	Phosphonyl-derived ions ^a	CF ₃	RCH=NH ₂ [R+29]	
			[M-45]	[M-69]	[M-97]	[M-112]	[M-138]	[138]	[111]	[82]			
5CB *a	H	C ₇ H ₁₃ F ₃ NPO ₄ (263.2)	262 (-)	218 (18.0)	156 (0.6)	150 (1.9)	126 (55)	138 (100)	111 (50)	82 (34)	69 (22)	30 (5.4)	
5CB *b	CH ₃	C ₈ H ₁₅ F ₃ NPO ₄ (277.2)	276 (-)	232 (5.0)	180 (1.7)	164 (0.1)	140 (29)	138 (100)	111 (56)	82 (34)	69 (10)	44 (2.0)	
5CB *c	C ₂ H ₅	C ₉ H ₁₇ F ₃ NPO ₄ (291.1)	290 (-)	246 (3.7)	194 (0.3)	179 (0.2)	154 (32)	138 (100)	111 (61)	82 (19)	69 (6.6)	58 (0.5)	
5CB *d	CH ₃ (CH ₃)	C ₉ H ₁₇ F ₃ NPO ₄ (291.1)	290 (-)	246 (4.2)	194 (2.4)	179 (1.5)	154 (18)	138 (100)	111 (68)	82 (29)	69 (6.6)	58 (0.6)	
5CB *e	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	C ₁₁ H ₂₁ F ₃ NPO ₄ (319.3)	318 (-)	274 (2.7)	222 (1.0)	207 (3.1)	182 (6.4)	138 (100)	111 (43)	82 (13)	69 (2.3)	86 (0.2)	
5CB *f	C ₆ H ₅	C ₁₃ H ₁₉ F ₃ NPO ₄ (339.3)	338 (-)	294 (2.6)	242 (0.3)	227 (0.3)	202 (100)	138 (56)	111 (40)	82 (15)	69 (8.5)	106 ^f (0.5)	
5CB *g	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₁₄ H ₂₁ F ₃ NPO ₄ (353.3)	352 (-)	308 (2.5)	256 (0.1)	241 ^e (4.4)	215 (100)	138 (66)	111 (37)	82 (12)	69 (3.8)	120 (2.0)	

^a (EtO)₂POH [138], (EtO)P(H)(OH)₂ [111], H₃PO₃ [82].

^b [263]; (1.3%).

^c [276]; (0.3%).

^d [263]; (8.2%).

^e [240]; (13%).

^f [107]; (15%).

Table 8
Reduced mass spectra of O-methyl-O-ethyl 1-(trifluoroacetyl-amino)alkane phosphonates 5CC*

No.	R (R' ≠ H)	Molecular formula (mass)	Mass spectrometry: m/z (relative intensity, %)												
			M	M - ErO ^a [M - 45]	M - R	M - CF ₃ [M - 69]	M - TFA [M - 97]	M - HNTFA [M - 112]	M - (RO) ₂ PO [M - 123]	Phosphonyl-derived ions ^a			CF ₃ [69]	RCH=NH ₂ [R + 29]	
5CC*a	H	C ₆ H ₁₁ F ₃ NPO ₄ (249.2)	249 (33.0)	204 (29.0)	248 (-)	180 (84.0)	152 (53.0)	137 (1.0)	126 (55)	124 (83)	97 (65)	96 ^f (90)	79 (55)	69 (38)	30 (6.9)
5CC*b	CH ₃	C ₇ H ₁₃ F ₃ NPO ₄ (263.2)	263 (2.3)	218 (4.3)	248 (-)	194 (1.2)	166 (4.2)	151 (0.2)	140 (36)	124 (100)	97 (54)	96 (61)	79 (9.6)	69 (12)	44 (1.6)
5CC*c	CH ₃ (CH ₃)	C ₈ H ₁₅ F ₃ NPO ₄ (277.1)	277 (10)	232 (4.7)	- ^e	208 (1.6)	180 (6.7)	165 (1.4)	154 (85)	124 (100)	97 (64)	96 (62)	79 (7.7)	69 (10)	58 (0.6)
5CC*d	C ₆ H ₅	C ₁₂ H ₁₇ F ₃ NPO ₄ (325.3)	325 (29.0)	280 (1.0)	248 (-)	256 (0.2)	228 (1.5)	213 (1.3)	202 (100)	124 (18)	97 (16)	96 (18)	79 (11)	69 (6.4)	114 (0.2)
5CC*e	C ₈ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₁₃ H ₁₉ F ₃ NPO ₄ (339.3)	339 (8.3)	294 (1.2)	248 (1.5)	270 (0.2)	242 (-)	227 ^d (2.4)	216 ^e (14)	124 (19)	97 (18)	96 (13)	79 (13)	69 (3.2)	128 (1.6)

^a The ions [M - MeO, (M - 31)] exhibited intensity <0.2%.

^b (ErO)(MeO)POH [124], (MeO)P(H)(OH)₂ [97], (MeO)P(OH)₂ [96], PO₃ [79].

^c [262]; (0.9%).

^d [226]; (7.8%).

^e [215]; (100%).

^f [95]; (100%).

3.4. Mass spectral properties of N-acetylaminoalkanephosphonates **5B**

The molecular ions $[M]^{+}$ of these derivatives were observed in low abundance, except the lowest homologue **5Ba** derived from phosphoglycine (**1a**, Gly^P). Charge localization on the nitrogen atom produced ions $[M - (R^2O)_2P(O)]^{+}$ and $[M - R]^{+}$ ions (R is the alkyl chain at C_α) resulting from α-cleavage. The ions $[RCH-NH_2]^{+}$ or $[M - (R^2O)_2P(O)]^{+}$ constitute the base peaks for the majority of N-acyl derivatives **5BA*** and **5BB***. The ions $[M - 1]^{+}$ and/or $[M - R]^{+}$, excluding compound **5BB*g**, derived from phosphonophenylalanine (**1f**, Phe^P) were not observed or were observed in very low abundances.

The ions resulting from the competitive charge localization on the phosphonate moiety were very abundant. Thus, the ions at m/z 138, 137, 110 and 82 were characteristic of the presence of the O,O-diethyl phosphonate system and had the mechanism of formation reported previously [15]. The ions at m/z 110, 109, 95 and 79 were characteristic of the presence of the O,O-dimethyl phosphonate system.

Cleavage of the acetate or acetamide group from the molecular ions of derivatives **5B** gave rise to the ions at $[M - 43]^{+}$ or $[M - 57]^{+}$, respectively. Ions at $[M - 42]^{+}$, which were more abundant for derivatives of **5BB*** than for **5BA***, were produced by the loss of ketene ($CH_2=C=O$) from $[M]^{+}$. Considerable scrambling between the acetate methyl hydrogens and the amide hydrogen accompanied these eliminations.

Cleavage of the alkoxy group of the phosphonate moiety from the molecular ions of derivatives **5B** afforded the ions $[M - 31]^{+}$ or $[M - 45]^{+}$.

3.5. Mass spectral properties of N-trifluoroacetylaminoalkanephosphonates **5C**

The molecular ions $[M]^{+}$ of these derivatives were observed in abundances varying from 0.4% (for **5CA*e**) to over 50% (for **5CB*a** and

5CB*f). Generally the highest abundances occurred for O,O-diethyl derivatives **5CB*** and the lowest for O,O-dimethyl derivatives **5CA***. Charge localization on the nitrogen atom produced ions $[M - (R^2O)_2P(O)]^{+}$ and $[M - R]^{+}$ ions (R is the alkyl chain at C_α) resulting from α-cleavage. The ions $[M - (R^2O)_2P(O)]^{+}$ represent the base peaks for most of the N-trifluoroacetyl derivatives **5BA*** and **5BB***. The ions $[M - 1]^{+}$ were not observed or were observed in very low abundances. The ions $[M - R]^{+}$ appeared for R > Et and R = PhCH₂, and were of low abundance.

The ions resulting from competitive charge localization on the phosphonate moiety were very abundant. Thus, the ions at m/z 138, 137, 110 and 82 were characteristic of the presence of the O,O-diethyl phosphonate system. The ions at m/z 124, 97, 96 and 81 indicated the presence of the O-ethyl-O-methyl phosphonate system and the ions at m/z 110, 109, 95 and 79 were characteristic of the presence of the O,O-dimethyl phosphonate system. The ions $[(R^2O)_2POH]^{+}$ at m/z 138, 124 and 110 constitute the base peaks of derivatives **5CB***, **5CC*** and **5CA***, respectively.

Cleavage of the trifluoromethyl, the trifluoroacetyl or the trifluoroacetamide group from the molecular ions of derivatives **5C** gave rise to ions at $[M - 69]^{+}$, $[M - 97]^{+}$ or $[M - 112]^{+}$, respectively. The ions $[RCH=NH_2]^{+}$ appeared at low abundances, if they were observed at all.

Cleavage of the alkoxy group of the phosphate moiety from the molecular ions of derivatives **5CA*** afforded the ions $[M - 31]^{+}$. The corresponding cleavage in the derivatives **5CB*** and **5CC*** gave rise to the ions $[M - 45]^{+}$.

4. Conclusions

A general derivatization method for aminoalkanephosphonic acids using carboxylic anhydrides-trialkyl orthoesters has been developed. ³¹P NMR spectroscopic investigations confirmed the complete conversion of 1-aminoalkanephosphonic acids into the volatile diester

derivatives **5** within 2 h. The ester products of this reaction, N-acetyl (**5B**) or N-trifluoroacetyl (**5C**) derivatives of aminoalkanephosphonates are satisfactory for characterization by both GC and GC–MS. The mass spectra of these derivatives were structurally informative. Ions characteristic of the phosphonate system were present in the mass spectra of all derivatives **5**, permitting rapid identification of these compounds.

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