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> SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Comparative Ozonolysis of Cyclic α,β-Unsaturated Enones

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Ozonolysis of cyclic olefins has been well documented; this reaction provides preparation of various α, ω -functionalized oxygen-containing compounds in good yields [1]. However, ozonolysis of cyclic olefins with electron-deficient double bonds involves some difficulties related to the substrate nature [2, 3]. In keeping with scarce published data available on the ozonolysis of α,β -unsaturated cyclic ketones, the reaction takes anomalous pathways and is often accompanied by decomposition of the carbon skeleton [2, 4]. Conjugated carbonyl compounds are considerably less reactive toward ozone than common olefins [5, 6].

We previously reported [7] on enhanced reactivity of (R)-4-menthenone (I) in the ozonolysis process, which was interpreted [8] in terms of both unusual polarization of the double bond in the enone system



and steric hindrances created by the isopropyl group in the α -position.

In the present work we compared the reactivities of some α,β -unsaturated cyclic ketones I–IV, conjugated cyclohexenone V, and cyclooctene (VI) in the oxidation with ozone. For this purpose, a solution of 0.096 g (1.0 mmol) of cyclohex-2-en-1-one (V) and 1.0 mmol of enone I-IV or cyclooctene VI in a mixture of 2 ml of anhydrous methylene chloride and 2 ml of anhydrous methanol was subjected to ozonation at 0°C until 1.0 mmol of ozone was absorbed (ozonator capacity 1.5 mmol/h). Dimethyl sulfide, 0.5 ml (5.0 mmol), was then added to the reaction mixture, and the mixture was kept for 2 h at room temperature until peroxy compounds disappeared (test with an acidified aqueous solution of potassium iodide). The mixture was analyzed by gas-liquid chromatography on a Shimadzu GC-9A instrument equipped with a 15-m DB-225 MS quartz capillary column (oven temperature 80–230°C, carrier gas helium) to determine the concentration of unreacted enone I-V or cyclooctene VI using cyclohexanone as internal standard. The consumption of ozone for each enone I-V or cyclooctene VI corresponded to the difference between their concentrations in the initial mixture and reaction products. According to the ozone consumption, the following relative reactivity values were obtained with respect to cyclohexenone V: I, 1.38; II, 0.52; III, 0.54; IV, 3.17; VI, 5.25. Thus the examined olefins rank as follows with respect to their reactivity in the ozonolysis: $II \approx III < V < I <$ IV < VI.

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The results obtained in the present work confirmed that conjugated cyclic enones **I**–**V** are less reactive toward ozone than cyclooctene **VI** having no functional substituents. We also demonstrated enhanced reactivity of (*R*)-4-menthenone (**I**) in this reaction, which is likely to result from more pronounced +*I* effect of alkyl group in the α -position. (*R*)-Pulegone (**IV**) exhibited even higher reactivity, presumably due to joint +*I* effects of two methyl groups and lesser steric hindrances are also responsible for the reduced reactivity of carenone **II** and verbenone **III** relative to cyclohexenone **V**.

(*R*)-4-Menthenone (**I**) was synthesized according to the procedure described in [9, 10]; compounds **II–VI** were commercial products (Lancaster). All substrates had a purity of no less than 97%.

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