### SUBSTITUTED METHYLPHENYLACETATE DERIVATIVES *J. Org. Chem., Vol. 58, No. 12, 197s* **2143**

75.93; **H,** 11.09.

This reaction was repeated in pure THF at room temperature with  $2.29 \text{ g } (0.094 \text{ g-atom})$  of magnesium in 175 ml of THF, 8.80 **g (0.041** mol) of 1,4-dibromobutane in 200 ml of **THF,** and **3.81** g **(0.023** mol) of **4a** in **175** ml of THF. The products **iso**lated consisted of 2-methylcycloheptanone (10%) and 6-methyl-5-undecanone (90%) which were compared with authentic samples. Only a trace **(0.2%)** of the unsaturated aldehyde **34**  was detected.

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*Anal.* Calcd for C8H140: C, 76.14; H, **11.18.** Found: *C,* **34,17206-63-2; 2-beneyl-4,4,6-trimethyloxazine, 26939- 22-0;** paraformaldehyde, **30525-89-4.** 

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# **Correlation of Configuration and "F Chemical Shifts of a-Methoxy-a-trifluoromethylphenylacetate Derivatives'**

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An empirically derived correlation of configuration of diastereomeric  $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetic (MTPA) esters and amides with the  $^{19}F$  chemical shifts has been developed. The data have been rationalized in terms of a configuration-correlation model 5. The inherently large <sup>19</sup>F chemical shifts (CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent, external trifluoroacetic acid) and their location in an otherwise uncongested region of the nmr spectrum makes this correlation of considerable value in connection with stereochemical studies involving chiral secondary alcohols and primary amines. Of the **25** examples studied, **19** MTPA esters and *6* MTPA amides, 18 clearly group themselves in a general pattern which is discussed in terms of the configuration-correlation model. Three MTPA esters showed no significant chemical shift nonequivalence for the <sup>19</sup>F  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> signals between *R, R-S, S* vs. *R,S-S,R* diastereomers. Of the four cases which might be considered exceptions to this nmr configurational correlation model, namely isobutyl-tert-butylcarbinol, n-butyl-tert-butylcarbinol, trifluoromethyl-tert-butylcarbinol, and borneol, the first three can be rationalized while only borneol stands as a clear exception to the model. All of the 6 MTPA diastereomeric amides studied conform to the same model.

The nonequivalence of various diastereomeric esters and amides has been utilized for the quantitative determination of enantiomeric composition of chiral alcohols and amines.3 These studies recently have been extended to include correlations of configurations with proton nmr chemical shift differences of these diastereomers.<sup>4</sup> We now report on an empirically derived correlation of configuration and 19F nmr chemical shift differences for esters and amides of  $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ trifluoromethylphenylacetic acid (MTPA) which are readily prepared from  $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride (MTPA-C1, 1). This deriv-



ative was chosen because of its availability in optically active forms,<sup>3c,5</sup> stability to racemization, and proven utility in earlier proton nmr studies.4

This method has the inherent advantage that the

**(1) We acknowledge with gratitude support of these studies by the National Science Foundation, Grant GP 27448.** 

*(2)* **Taken in part from the Ph.D. Thesis of James A. Dale, Stanford University, 1970.** 

**(3)** (a) **M. Raban and** K. **Mislow,** *Tetrahedron Lett.,* **4249 (1966); (b)**  *Top. Stereochem.,* **2, I99 (1967); (0)** J. **A. Dale,** D. **L. Dull, and H.** S. **Mosher,**  *J.* **Ow.** *Chem.,* **84, 2543 (1969); (d)** J. **A. Dale and H.** S. **Mosher,** *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* **90, 3732 (1968); (e) 0. Helmchen, R. Ott, and** K. **Sauber,** *Tetrahedron Lett.,* **3873 (1972).** 

**(4)** J. **A. Dale and H.** *8.* **Mosher,** *J.* **Arner.** *Chem. SOC.,* **91, 612 (1973), and references cited therein.** 

**(5) Resolved MTPASd is available** from **Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc., Milwaukee, Wis., Norse Chemicals, Santa Barbara, Calif., and Fluka** AG, **Buchs, Switzerland.** 

<sup>19</sup>F nmr chemical shift differences for the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>2</sub> group of such diastereomeric derivatives **(2)** are generally greater than those of the corresponding proton signals in the same compounds. With the usual substrates the 19F signals are found in a completely unobstructed region of the spectrum. If there are other fluorine substituents on the carbinyl moiety of the MTPA esters or amides, their signals are generally discernible by spin-spin coupling patterns.

The <sup>19</sup>F chemical shifts for the diastereomers in this study are listed in Table I. They are recorded in parts per million downfield relative to external trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in deuteriochloroform solvent. From these data are obtained the diastereomer chemical shift differences  $(\delta_{\mathbf{x}} - \delta_{\mathbf{y}})$ . These values are also compared to those reported previously<sup>3c</sup> using internal TFA as a reference standard (Table I, last three columns). In our previous studies we had noted that internal TFA, as well as solvent, had a pronounced effect on the position of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>a</sub> resonances and on the chemical shift differences of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> signals of diastereomeric MTPA esters. We further observed that in some cases there was no diastereomer chemical shift difference for these  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>s</sub> until TFA was added. These initial observations had discouraged us from seriously considering a correlation scheme based upon the nonequivalence of these  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>a</sub> resonances. We now find that, in spite of the fact that some MTPA diastereomers give coincident  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>s</sub> signals in the absence of TFA (3 out of 25 examples in Table I), very significant nonequivalences are observed in most cases. In the present study all values were obtained using external TFA.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR CHEMICAL SHIFT DIFFERENCES FOR DIASTEREOMERIC MTPA DERIVATIVES<sup>6</sup>







<sup>d</sup> Data determined at 94.1 MHz on a Varian XL-100 spectrometer using deuteriochloroform solvent, with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) external standard; internal TFA, ref 3c. <sup>b</sup> Configurations as per formulas X and Y in the determined on the opposite isomer but corrected for the comiguration shown. The convention used for reporting chemical shifts<br>is such that signals upfield from TFA have positive values and signals downfield from TFA have n A. H. Beckett, N. J. Harper, and J. W. Cletherow, J. Pharm. Pharmacol., 15, 8577g (1963). 'R. MacLeod, F. J. Welch, and H. S.<br>Mosher, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 82, 876 (1960). 'V. Prelog, E. Philbin, E. Watanabe, and M. Wilhelm multiple chiral centers.  $^{i}$  (-)-Menthyl configuration at carbinyl carbon, in which the  $\alpha$ -isopropyl substituent is designated L<sup>3</sup> and the  $\alpha$ -methylene as L<sup>2</sup>. For configuration see J. L. Simonsen and L. N. Owen,  $(1971).$ 

Table I has been so organized that the configurations of the carbinyl moiety in X and Y are the same, while those of the MTPA moiety are  $R$  in  $X$  and  $S$  in Y. The enantiomers of  $X$  and  $Y$  will of course have identical nmr spectra. Thus Table I accommodates the data for the configurations shown as well as those for the enantiomers of  $X$  and  $Y$ . These data will be first considered from a strictly empirical viewpoint followed by an attempt to rationalize them in terms of a conformationally based stereochemical correlation model.

The chemical shift data in Table I are arranged so that the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>s</sub> group of diastereomer X has its resonance to lower field than that of Y. Once this is done. the designation of the groups on the carbinyl carbon

as  $L^2 v$ s.  $L^3$  is not arbitrary since each example in Table I is of known configuration. The data for any new MTPA ester or amide can be fitted into Table I in like manner; however, if the configuration of such a new example is unknown, then there is a choice which must be made for the designation of the substituents attached to the carbinyl carbon as either  $L^2$  or  $L^3$ . This designation of  $L^2$  and  $L^3$  serves to establish the assigned configuration of X and Y. Without additional information such a designation would be arbitrary. An inspection of columns 3 and 4 of Table I shows that in all but four somewhat special cases the  $L^2$  group is "smaller" than the  $L^3$  group. The decision as to which of two groups is sterically smaller is very clear in cases such as methyl vs. tert-butyl and methyl

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*vs.* phenyl, but it is not so obvious in cases such a8 tert-butyl *vs.* phenyl, trifluoromethyl, isobutyl, or even  $n$ -butyl. This problem has been discussed in general.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, *if it is possible to decisively designate* one *group attached to the carbinyl carbon as sterically* smaller *than the other group,* then by specifying the "smaller  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the "larger group" L<sup>3</sup> the new example will fit the general pattern of the data in Table I. Thus the configuration of such a new compound can<br>be determined by this empirical correlation. The be determined by this empirical correlation. specification of the carbinyl moiety as *R* or S follows from the application of the Cahn-Ingold-Prelog configurational nomenclature rules. It is important to note that steric bulk considerations alone may be invalid for electronegative groups such as  $CF<sub>a</sub>$  and for groups containing other heteroatoms.

The six MTPA amides of primary amines which are chiral at the carbinyl carbon, in analogy with the secondary carbinols, show completely comparable nmr nonequivalences for the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>a</sub> resonances. Thus the same empirical correlation used for the esters will presumably be applicable to a variety of corresponding MTPA amides of primary amines. The situation with respect to amides of secondary amines may be quite different, as shown by the proton nmr studies by Jacobus and Jones' and Helmchen.8

**A** configuration-correlation model has already been proposed for rationalizing the nonequivalence *proton*  nmr spectra of MTPA diastereomeric esters.<sup>4</sup> This is shown in formulas **3A** and **3B** and **4A** and **4B** (Chart **I).9** No attempt was made to use models **4A** and **4B**  to account for the  $-CF_3$  chemical shift differences.<sup>4</sup> We now believe that the effect which leads to the nonequivalence of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>a</sub> resonances in these diastereomers is an anisotropic deshielding of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> substituent by the ester carbonyl, Normally this might be a small effect, but, if other influential factors<sup>10</sup> are relatively constant between two diastereomers, then the anisotropic deshielding by the carbonyl group could be the determining factor responsible for the observed chemical shift differences. The magnitude of the observed I9F diastereomer nonequivalence (up to **0.73** ppm) is in the range anticipated for such

*(6)* J. D. Morrison and H. S. Masher, "Asymmetric Organic Reactions," **(7)** J. Jacobus and T. *E.* Jones, *J.* **Amer.** *Chem.* Soc., **02, 4583 (1970).**  Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J., **1971,** pp **36-37, 55-57, 89, 363.** 

**(8)** *G.* Helmchen, private communication, University of Stuttgart, Germany.

 $(9)$  It has been previously emphasized<sup>2*i*4</sup> and should be restated that formulae **4A** and **4B** are intended to represent a model which successfully correlates the known results. These are not intended to represent the preferred ground state conformation of the molecules under consideration. They may in fact measure an effective average of many conformations or may represent a minor conformation which, however, exerts a proportionately large differential shielding of the L2 and **L3 groups.** Admittedly the success **of** the correlation tends to reinforce the belief that these do indeed represent major conformations of the molecules in question, but it must still be borne in mind that the possibility exists that this is a fortuitous array which happens to serve as an empirical correlation of the results,

(10) The paramagnetic contribution to the shielding of the fluorine nuclei is approximately 100 times that of the diamagnetia contribution and *is* responsible for the generally large variance observed for **IeF** chemical shifts.11 In the examples under consideration the **a-CF3** resonances are all found within a range of *2* ppm. It seems reasonable, therefore, to propose that the paramagnetic contribution within diastereomerio pairs is relatively constant and that the differences in **a-CF3** resonances observed between such pairs can result from diamagnetic inequalities in the environment caused by its orientation with respect to the carbonyl group **as** proposed here.

(11) (a) N. F. Ramsey, Phys. Rev., 86, 243 (1952); (b) J. W. Emsley, J. Feeroy, and L. H. Sutcliffe, "High Resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy," Vol. 2, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1965, p 874.



Figure 1.-Nmr 19F configurational correlation models for diastereomeric MTPA derivatives. The cone-shaped field shown here is only an approximation; the carbonyl shielding environment is delineated more precisely in ref **12.** 





an effect<sup>12</sup> in which the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> group finds itself either in a relatively deshielded environment (relatively downfield) as represented in **5A** or in a relatively more shielded environment (relatively upfield) as in **5B**  (Figure 1). In these proposed models **(SA** vs. **5B)** the extent of deshielding of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> group will depend upon the extent that the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> group is forced out of coplanarity by the interactions of  $L^2$  and  $L^3$  with the  $\alpha$ -methoxy and phenyl groups. These interactions can be either steric, electronic, or both. The results are best rationalized by focusing on the  $\alpha$ -phenyl group.

**4A 4B** 

**(12) L. M.** Jackman and S. Sternhell, "Applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrosoopy in Organic Chemistry," 2nd ed, Pergamon Press, Oxford, **1969,** pp **88-92,** 

Let us first assume (1) that the interactions with which we are concerned in the basic model represented by *5* are primarily steric in nature, **(2)** that phenyl is sterically more bulky than methoxyl, and (3) that L3 is more bulky than **L2.** Under these conditions, diastereomer **5A** should have the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> group more nearly coplanar with the carbonyl group than diastereomer **5B.** In **5A** the steric interactions are minimized by  $[(L^3||OMe) + (L^2||Ph)]$  with the larger substituent **L3** opposed to the smaller methoxy and the smaller **L2** opposed to the larger phenyl. In the alternate diastereomer **5B** the interactions will be  $[(L^3||Ph) +$  $(L^2|<sub>OMe</sub>)$ , which juxtapose the two large groups on one side and the two small groups on the other. The overall result should be a rotation (on the average) of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>a</sub> group out of coplanarity with the carbonyl group in diastereomer 5B. As a consequence, the diastereomer represented by 5B should have the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> group in a less deshielded environment of the carbonyl group as represented in **6B** and its resonance should be upfield relative to that in diastereomer **6A.** 

The explicit use of this configuration-correlation model for prediction of configuration based on the  $^{19}F$ nmr nonequivalence of MTPA diastereomers (with external TFA in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent) is as follows. That diastereomer prepared from  $(R)-(+)$ -MTPA with the downfield  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> signal relative to the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> resonance of the alternate diastereomer will have configuration **5B** (equivalent to **3B**) where L<sup>2</sup> is sterically smaller than L<sup>3</sup>. If  $(S)$ -(-)-MTPA is used in preparing the derivatives, then that diastereomer with the relatively downfield  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> resonance will be the enantiomer of **5B.** The configurational designation follows from application of the Cahn-Ingold-Prelog nomenclature rules.

This model clearly and simply rationalizes the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> nmr data in Table I, with the exception of the MTPA esters of phenyl-tert-butylcarbinol, *n*butyl-tert-butylcarbinol, isobutyl-tert-butylcarbinol, trifluoromethyl-tert-butylcarbinol, and borneol; these examples represent special cases requiring further consideration. The phenyl-tert-butylcarbinyl MTPA ester of known configuration follows the correlation model when  $L^2$  is tert-butyl and  $L^3$  is phenyl; *i.e.*, when phenyl is considered to be larger than tert-butyl. This is in accord with the most asymmetric synthesis;<sup>6</sup> therefore, it is the expected result, although the apparent relative sizes of phenyl and tert-butyl are not obvious.13

Correlation of the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> nmr resonances of the n-butyl-tert-butylcarbinol and isobutyl-tert-butylcarbinol MTPA esters of known configuration requires that one consider for the purpose of this correlation scheme that n-butyl and isobutyl both act as though they are more bulky than tert-butyl. This is contrary to findings based upon asymmetric Grignard reductions.'\* However, the observation that asymmetric synthesis using n-butyl-tert-butylcarbinyl benzoylformate gives a reversal in stereoselectivity depending upon its reaction with either methyl Grignard reagent or lithium tri-tert-butoxyaluminohydride<sup>15</sup> emphasizes the complexity of the group size concept.8 Certainly tert-butyl acts as the more bulky group in comparison to the *n*-butyl and isobutyl groups in those cases where the focus of steric interaction is located adjacent to these substituents (as in the asymmetric reduction of Me3CCOR ketones), However, in cases where the prochiral reaction center is more remote from the inducing chiral center [as in the PhCOCOO- $CHR(CMe<sub>3</sub>)$  reactions<sup>[15</sup> the longer *n*-butyl and isobutyl groups may be able to extend their influence to the remote carbonyl reaction center better than the shorter tert-butyl group. The present study of diastereomer differences in the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> nmr resonances of MTPA derivatives must reflect conformational interactions resembling the situation which exists with the benzoylformate esters. Similar observations were made by Landor and coworkers<sup>16</sup> in asymmetric reduction of various ketones using the chiral lithium aluminum **hydride-3-0-benzyl-1,2-0-cyclohexylidene-a-**D-glucofuranose complex.

It is unrealistic to hope to correlate interactions of electronegative groups such as phenyl and trifluoromethyl on steric grounds alone. The present data confirm this. In the MTPA esters of trifluoromethylphenylcarbinol, the group interactions for the two diastereomers represented by 5 are  $[(CF_3 || OMe) + (pH)$ Ph)] and  $[(\tilde{CF}_3||Ph) + Ph||OMe]$ . An intuitive evaluation of the electronic and steric factors in this situation indicates that they are essentially equivalent and thus the rotation out of coplanarity for **5A**  $vs.$  **5B** would be minimal. This is in accord with the observation of no significant  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> nmr nonequivalence in these diastereomers.

However, when we consider the diastereomeric MTPA esters of trifluoromethyl-tert-butylcarbinol we find a different situation with the following interactions:  $[(t-Bu||OMe) + (CF_s||Ph)] vs. [(CF_s||OMe) + (t Bu||Ph)$ ]. Previous asymmetric reduction studies<sup>17</sup> indicate that the  $CF_3||Ph$  repulsive interaction is especially large, and we therefore conclude that the largest rotation out of coplanarity as represented in **5B** will be for that diastereomer in which  $L^3$  is designated to be  $CF_3$  and  $L^2$  to be tert-butyl,<sup>6</sup> but it is altogether reasonable to postulate that electronic repulsions exert a dominant influence here. This interpretation is in accord with the published absolute configuration of trifluoromethyl-tert-butylcarbinol.<sup>18</sup> Thus the discrepancy in this case based upon steric interactions alone is successfully rationalized by taking electronic interactions into considerations.

The MTPA esters of menthol, cholesterol, and borneol represent examples in which the chiral alcohol moiety contains asymmetric centers other than the one to which the ester is bonded. In such cases it may be that one or more of these additional asymmetric centers is influential in determining the nmr nonequivalence. In spite of this, both the menthyl ester and

**<sup>(13)</sup> For** instance, the relative axial *us.* equatorial conformational energy values for phenyl *us.* tert-butyl in cyclohexane systems indicate that *tert-*butyl is substantially more bulky: J. **A.** Hirsch, *Top. Stereochem.,* **1, 207 (1967).** This is in contrast to the general experience in asymmetric synthesis studies.<sup>6</sup>

**<sup>(14)</sup>** See ref **6,** pp **182-186.** 

**<sup>(15)</sup>** *8.* Yamaguchi, **J. A.** Dale, and H. *8.* Mosher, *J. Org. Chem.,* **87,** 

<sup>(16)</sup> *8.* R. Landor, B. J. Miller, and **A, R.** Tatchell, *J. Chem. SOC.* (I, **9254 (1972). 2280 (1966).** 

**<sup>(17)</sup>** Reference **6,** pp **190-193.** 

**<sup>(18)</sup>** The absolute configuration of trifluoromethyl-tert-butylcarbinol has not been proven unequivocally but has been deduced based upon reasonable correlations: **H.** Peters, D. M. Feigl, and **H.** S. Mosher, *J.* **Org.** *Chem., 88,*  **4246 (1968).** 

the amide examples fit the general scheme of **L2** being smaller than  $L^3$ .

The carbinyl carbon in cholesterol **(7)** is flanked on each side by a methylene group; accordingly one might anticipate that there would be little difference in the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>a</sub> nmr resonances for these MTPA diastereomers. This is what we observe.



However, we have checked both  $(-)$ - and  $(+)$ bornyl MTPA esters and confirm that the d-bornyl ester with the S configuration at the carbinyl carbon shows the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> resonance of the  $(R)$ -MTPA ester downfield with respect to that of the  $(S)$ -MTPA ester. In borneol the methylene group at **C-2** is clearly designated L2 (smaller) while the quaternary carbon at  $C-2$  is  $L^3$  (larger). Thus this lone example stands as a clear exception to the general correlation scheme for the  $\alpha$ -CF<sub>3</sub> resonances.

Finally, the presence of heteroatoms in either **L2**  or  $L^3$ , as in entries 6 and 7, Table I, may profoundly

change the molecular conformations upon which the correlation is based. The fact that the correlation does hold in a case such as ethyl lactate does not necessarily mean that this will be generally so for all  $\alpha$ hydroxy esters. These examples must be taken only as indication that it may be possible to successfully extend the correlation to these types by further study.

#### **Experimental Section**

**Instruments.**—All <sup>19</sup>F resonance measurements were made on a Varian XL-100 nmr spectrometer<sup>19</sup> at 94.1 MHz using 5-mm a Varian XL-100 nmr spectrometer<sup>19</sup> at 94.1 MHz using 5-mm nmr tubes, CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent, and external trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) as standard. The TFA was contained in a sealed, precision ground, coaxial cell which was necked down at the bottom to a concentric  $25 \times 2$  mm o.d. capillary stem containing the degassed TFA.

 $\textbf{Reagent}.\\$  + )- $\alpha$ -Methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride, (+)-MTPA-Cl, was prepared from  $(R)$ -(+)-a-methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetic acid,<sup>5</sup>  $(R)$ -(+)-MTPA, according to the previously described method.<sup>30,4</sup>

**MTPA** Derivatives.-The MTPA esters and amides were prepared from (+ )-MTPA-C1 according to the previously described procedure.<sup>4</sup> Two derivatives were usually prepared, one from enantiomerically pure carbinol and amine and  $(+)$ -MTPA-C1 and a second using MTPA-C1 which was about  $70\%$  (+)-MTPA-C1 and  $30\%$  (-)-MTPA-C1. This permitted the unequivocal establishment of the nmr chemical shift for each diastereomer,

Chiral Carbinols and Amines.-These compounds were available from previous studies in these laboratories by the methods indicated by the references to Table I.

Acknowledgment. - We are grateful to Dr. Lois Durham, Director of the Stanford Chemistry Department Nmr Laboratories, for her continued help and cooperation.

**(19) We gratefully acknowledge Grant GP 28142 from the National Scienoe Foundation to the Stanford Chemiatry Department for the purchase of this instrument.** 

## **The 2** : **1 Adduct from Diphenylketene and 1,l-Diphenylethylene. 3,4-Dihydro-l,4,4-triphenyl-2-naphthyl Diphenylacetatel''**

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The 2:1 adduct from the thermal reaction of diphenylketene and 1,1-diphenylethylene has been conclusively identified as 3,4-dihydro-1,4,4-triphenyl-2-naphthyl diphenylacetate, and part of the degradation of the adduct reported in 1958 by Farooq and Abraham has been repeated and reinterpreted.

The 2:1 adduct derived from the reaction of diphenylketene with 1,1-diphenylethylene at  $150^{\circ}$  was first obtained by Staudinger and Suter<sup>3</sup> in 1920. Their original structural proposal, 2,2,4,4,6,6-hexaphenylcyclohexane-1,3-dione **(l),** was revised by Farooq and



**<sup>(1)</sup> Supported by the National Science Foundation and Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.** 

Abraham4 in 1958 to **2,2,4,4,5,5-hexaphenylcyclo**hexane-1,3-dione **(2)**.

The later proposal was bolstered by results obtained through a degradation of the 2: 1 adduct, a degradation which led eventually to some 1,1,4,4-tetraphenyl-lbutene, claimed to be identical with an authentic, independently synthesized sample of this hydrocarbon. Salient features of degradation are outlined in Scheme I.

In the course of a thorough kinetic investigation of the cycloaddition reaction between diphenylketene and 1,1-diarylethylenes<sup>5</sup> we secured infrared and nmr spectral data on five adducts of this class. These data were inconsistent with cyclohexanedione structural postu-

**<sup>(2)</sup> A preliminary account of this work has appeared: J. E. Baldwin, M. F. Breckinridge, and D.** *8.* **Johnson.** *Tetrahedron Lett.,* **1635 (1972).** 

**<sup>(3)</sup>** E. **Staudinger and E. Suter,** *Bey. Deut. Chem. Qes.,* **58, 1092 (1920).** 

**<sup>(4)</sup> M.** *0.* **Farooq and N. A. Abraham,** *Bull.* **Soe.** *Chim. Fr.,* **832 (1968).** 

*<sup>(5)</sup>* **J. E. Baldwin and J. A. Kapecki;** *J. Amer. Chem.* **SOC., 93, 4868 (1970).**