

Table I
Conditions^a and Results of Electrosynthesis of *O,O*-Diethyl *S*-Phenyl Phosphorothiolates 1

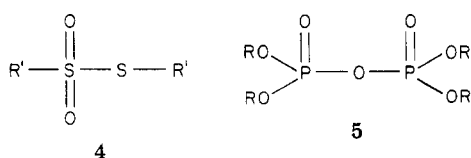
entry	halide salt (amt, mg)	electrodes	amt of electricity, F/mol (mA cm ⁻²)	time, h	product yield, ^b %
1	none	Pt	3.5 (2.8-0.1)	60.3	23
2	NaBr (3)	Pt	2.6 (1.2-0.1)	73	72
3	NaBr (10)	Pt	3.0 (3.7-0.1)	15.3	84
4	NaBr (50)	Pt	3.5 (5.0-2.0)	5	91
5	NaBr (50)	Pt	2.0 (2.7-0.8)	5.5	81
6	NaBr (100)	Pt	3.5 (4.3-0.9)	8	87
7	NaI (50)	Pt	3.5 (11.0-1.4)	4.4	73
8	NaCl (50)	Pt	3.5 (1.4-0.2)	28	59
9	KBr (50)	Pt	3.5 (6.7-1.2)	7.5	76
10	LiBr (50)	Pt	3.5 (4.2-1.5)	5.5	69
11	Et ₄ NBr (50)	Pt	3.5 (10.3-2.8)	3.8	46
12	NaBr (50)	C	3.5 (2.6-0.7)	14.5	41
13	NaBr (50)	Sus	3.5 (4.3-0.5)	19.1	57

^a Electrolyses were carried out in MeCN (20 mL) containing Et₄NClO₄ (100 mg) at a constant applied voltage of 3 V at 20-25 °C. ^b Isolated yields based on 3.

Table II
Electrosynthesis of *S*-Alkyl (or Aryl) *O,O*-Dialkyl (or Diaryl) Phosphorothiolates 1

entry	phosphite 2 R	disulfide 3 R'	current density, mA/cm ² (F/mol)	time, h	product	
					convrsn, %	selectivity, %
1	methyl	phenyl	4.0-1.6 (3.5)	8	89	67
2	methyl	benzyl	5.3-0.3 (3.5)	27.5	95	71
3	methyl	butyl	5.7-0.8 (3.5)	12	81	88
4	methyl	cyclohexyl	5.0-2.5 (3.5)	5.2	83	57
5	methyl	(CH ₂) ₂ COOMe	3.3-1.0 (2.8)	9	69	57
6	methyl	CH ₂ COOEt	2.2-0.9 (3.5)	12	100	75
7	ethyl	phenyl	5.0-2.0 (3.5)	5	91	100
8	ethyl	benzyl	3.0-1.8 (3.5)	10	91	98
9	ethyl	butyl	5.0-1.7 (3.5)	7.4	96	72
10	ethyl	cyclohexyl	2.4-0.9 (3.5)	11.2	97	79
11	ethyl	(CH ₂) ₂ COOMe	4.8-1.2 (2.5)	5.8	97	58
12	ethyl	CH ₂ COOEt	3.1-0.8 (2.0)	7	89	78
13	isopropyl	phenyl	5.0-2.2 (4.0)	7	92	80
14	isopropyl	benzyl	3.3-0.5 (3.5)	8.3	100	97
15	isopropyl	cyclohexyl	7.7-2.0 (3.5)	5.6	82	78
16	phenyl	phenyl	6.0-0.5 (3.5)	6.8	57	89
17	phenyl	benzyl	5.0-0.1 (3.0)	12.6	68	75
18	phenyl	cyclohexyl	6.1-0.1 (3.5)	13	49	92

Electrolysis of a suspension of diethyl phosphite (2, R = Et), diphenyl disulfide (3, R' = phenyl), and sodium bromide in acetonitrile containing Et₄NClO₄ as a supporting electrolyte was carried out at a constant voltage of 3 V, at 20-25 °C in a cell fitted with two platinum-foil electrodes. The anode potential varied between 0.1 and 0.9 V vs. Ag/AgClO₄. During the electrolysis the current density varied from 5 to 1 mA/cm². After passage of 2.0-3.5 F/mol (based on 3) of electricity, the desired 1 (R = Et, R' = phenyl) was obtained in 72-91% yields, depending upon the amount of bromide salt present (Table I, entries 2-6). A similar electrolysis without sodium bromide (entry 1) gave only a 23% yield of 1 along with thiosulfonate 4 (R' = phenyl, 22%) and a small amount of tetraethyl pyrophosphate 5 (R = Et).¹⁰ These results suggest that sodium bromide plays a significant role in the S-P bond formation.



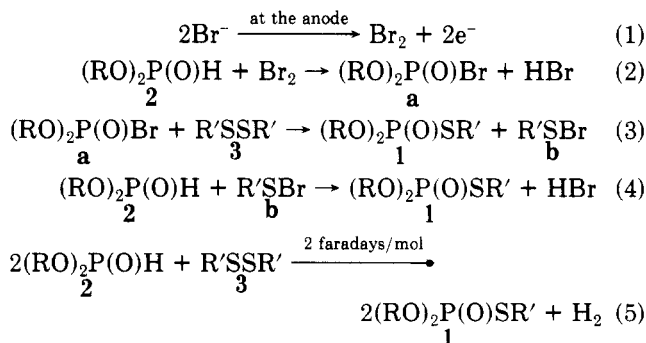
Next, we examined the effect of halide ions by using sodium halides. Entries 7 and 8 reveal that both sodium

iodide and sodium chloride were less effective than sodium bromide. Furthermore, variation of the cation yielded percentages of 1 in the following order (yield (percent) for entries 4, 9, 10, and 11): Na⁺ (91) > K⁺ (76) > Li⁺ (69) > Et₄N⁺ (46). The product yields also seem to depend, in part, upon the electrodes employed since carbon or stainless steel (SUS 27) electrodes provided 1 (R = Et, R' = Ph) in 41 or 57% yield, respectively (entries 12 and 13).

A number of select dialkyl (or diaryl) phosphites 2 were allowed to react with disulfides 3. The results of the electrosyntheses of phosphorothiolates 1 are summarized in Table II.

Mechanistic Consideration. A plausible mechanism for the S-P bond-making reaction is illustrated in Scheme I. The current-potential curves of various electrolysis

Scheme I



(10) (a) Bliznyuk, N. K.; Stréltsov, R. V.; Kvasha, Z. N.; Kolomiets, A. F. *Zh. Obshch. Khim.* 1967, 37, 1119; *Chem. Abstr.* 1968, 68, 105296h. (b) Stec, W.; Zwierzak, A.; Michalski, J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1968, 5873.

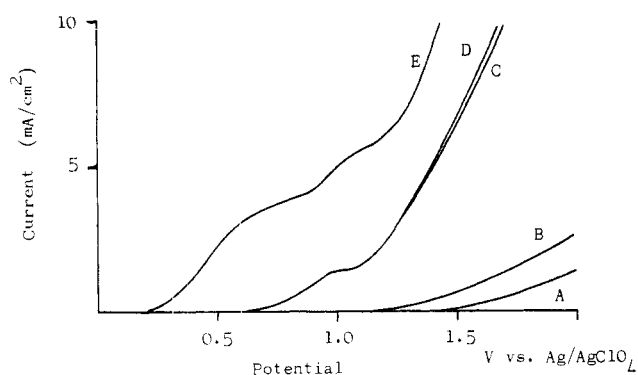
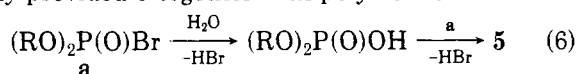


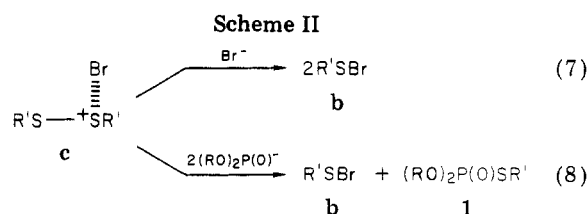
Figure 1. Current-potential curves: (A) 100 mg of Et_4NClO_4 in 20 mL of MeCN; (B) 2 mmol of **2** ($R = \text{Et}$) in system A; (C) 1 mmol of **3** ($R' = \text{phenyl}$) in system A; (D) 2 mmol of **2** ($R = \text{Et}$) and 1 mmol of **3** ($R' = \text{phenyl}$) in system A; (E) 50 mg of NaBr in system D.

systems are shown in Figure 1. Curve E reveals that the current begins to pass at 0.4–0.5 V vs. Ag/AgClO₄, closely related to the discharge potential of bromide ion (0.6 V vs. SCE).^{9b} Therefore, under the employed conditions (0.7–0.9 V vs. Ag/AgClO₄), the bromide ion would be oxidized to bromine and/or bromonium ion by loss of two electrons at the anode (eq 1). The reaction of phosphite **2** with bromine would produce the corresponding phosphorobromidates¹² (**a**, eq 2), which can react with disulfides **3** to give the desired products **1** as well as sulfenyl bromides (**b**, eq 3). The reaction of **2** with **b** would also occur to provide **1** (eq 4).¹³ The electrochemical S–P bond-making process involves a two-electron oxidation of bromide, producing 2 mol of **1** from 2 mol of **2** and 1 mol of **3** (summary eq 5). Actually, the passage of 2 F/mol of electricity can provide **1** in 81% yield (Table I, entry 5). Apparently, bromide ion can be regenerated in the electrolysis solution as an oxidation catalyst. The presence of the reaction intermediate **a** could not be ascertained, but the similar electrolysis of a mixture of **2** ($R = \text{Et}$) and NaBr in acetonitrile without adding **3** gave pyrophosphate **5** in 22% yield, which would be derived from the condensation of **a** and **2** in the presence of a trace of water (eq 6). Indeed, addition of water to the electrolysis solution readily provided **5** together with polymers of **2**.



As another plausible intermediate for the S–P bond formation, one should consider the formation of the bromonium ion adduct **c** derived from direct attack of bromine on **3**, since intermediate **c** would react with **2** or bromide ion to give **1** or **b** (Scheme II). However, the electrolysis of a mixture of disulfide **3** ($R' = \text{phenyl}$) and sodium bromide in acetonitrile gave no detectable amount of **b** but only the recovered **3** (89%) and the thiosulfonate **4** ($R' = \text{phenyl}$, 4%),¹⁴ indicating that the reaction (eq 7) may be ruled out from the hypothesis of the S–P bond-making reaction. However, the pathway shown in eq 8 cannot be excluded completely.

The similar current-potential curves of the systems C and D reveal that the reaction of **2** with **3** does not take place under these reaction conditions. If an equilibrium reaction between **2** and **3** did occur, one would observe



another oxidation peak due to $\text{R}'\text{SH}$ at a lower potential.¹⁵ Judging from the current-potential curve of the system C, it is unlikely that such an equilibrium reaction between **2** and **3** occurs.

Experimental Section

All melting points and boiling points are uncorrected. ¹H NMR spectra were obtained at 60 MHz with a Hitachi R-24 spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in parts per million downfield from internal Me₄Si. IR spectra were determined with a JASCO Model IRA-I grating spectrometer. Current-potential measurements were carried out by using a Kowa Electronics Model PGS-1550 potentiogalvanostat and an FG-102A function generator. Elemental analyses were performed in our laboratory.

Materials. Commercially available chemicals were used unless otherwise noted. Disulfides **3** ($R = \text{cyclohexyl}$, CH₂COOEt,¹⁶ and CH₂CH₂COOH)¹⁷ were prepared by electrolytic coupling of corresponding thiols according to the reported procedure.^{9a} Disulfide **3** ($R = \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOMe}$)¹⁷ was obtained on treatment of **3** ($R = \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$) with an excess amount of diazomethane.

General Procedure. A mixture of phosphite **2** (2.3 mmol), disulfide **3** (1 mmol), and halide salts in MeCN (20 mL) containing Et₄NClO₄ (100 mg) was placed in a cell (3.5-cm diameter, 10-cm high) fitted with a gas exit pipe, a thermometer, a magnetic stirrer, and two platinum-foil electrodes (3 × 2 cm²) being placed parallel, 5 mm apart. The regulated dc power was supplied by a Metronix Model 543B instrument. The reaction conditions and results are summarized in Tables I and II. A typical experimental procedure is given below.

Electrosynthesis of *O,O*-Diethyl *S*-Phenyl Phosphorothiolate (1**, $R = \text{Ethyl}$, $R' = \text{Phenyl}$) (Table II, Entry 7).** A mixture of **3** ($R' = \text{phenyl}$, 218 mg, 1 mmol), **2** ($R = \text{Et}$, 320 mg, 2.3 mmol), and NaBr (50 mg) in MeCN (20 mL) containing Et₄NClO₄ (100 mg) was electrolyzed with vigorous stirring at 3 V of constant applied voltage (anode potential 0.7–0.9 V vs. Ag/AgClO₄ in MeCN) at 22–24 °C. During the course of the electrolysis the initial current density of 5 mA/cm² dropped to 2 mA/cm². After passage of 3.5 × 10⁻³ faradays of electricity the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was chromatographed (SiO₂, hexane/benzene/AcOEt) to give **1** ($R = \text{Et}$, $R' = \text{phenyl}$, 454 mg, 91%) along with the recovered **2** (72 mg) and **3** (19 mg). **1** ($R = \text{Et}$, $R' = \text{phenyl}$): bp 84–88 °C (0.02 torr) (lit.¹⁸ bp 85 °C (0.02 torr)); IR (neat) 3062 (HAr), 1259 (P=O), 1160 (PO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.30 (t, 6, CH₃), 4.11 (q, 2, CH₂), 4.26 (q, 2, CH₂), 7.03–7.73 (m, 5, HAr).

***O,O*-Dimethyl *S*-Phenyl Phosphorothiolate (**1**,¹⁹ $R = \text{Methyl}$, $R' = \text{Phenyl}$, Entry 1):** bp 70–75 °C (0.005 torr); IR (neat) 3060 (HAr), 1261 (P=O), 1189 (PO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.71, 3.93 (s, 6, CH₃), 7.23–7.75 (m, 5, HAr).

***S*-Benzyl *O,O*-Dimethyl Phosphorothiolate (**1**, $R = \text{Methyl}$, $R' = \text{Benzyl}$, Entry 2):** bp 90–95 °C (0.005 torr) (lit.^{9c} bp 98 °C (0.01 torr)); IR (neat) 3060 (HAr), 1260 (P=O), 1185 (PO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.56, 3.77 (s, 6, CH₃), 3.88, 4.13 (s, 2, CH₂), 7.11–7.51 (m, 5, HAr).

***S*-Butyl *O,O*-Dimethyl Phosphorothiolate (**1**,²⁰ $R = \text{Methyl}$, $R' = \text{Butyl}$, Entry 3):** bp 45–50 °C (0.01 torr); IR (neat) 1260 (P=O), 1189 (PO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.73–1.12 (m, 3, CH₃), 1.12–1.97 (m, 4, CH₂), 2.57–3.12 (m, 2, CH₂), 3.69, 3.90 (s, 6, CH₃).

(15) Mercaptide ion can be oxidized at ca. 0.5 V vs. SCE.⁹

(16) Hiskey, R. G.; Dennis, A. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1968**, *33*, 563.

(17) Gibson, H. W.; McKenzie, D. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1970**, *35*, 2994.

(18) Markouska, A.; Michalski, J. *Rocz. Chem.* **1964**, *38*, 1141; *Chem. Abstr.* **1964**, *61*, 15967g.

(19) Murdock, L. L.; Hopkins, T. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1968**, *33*, 907.

(20) Nguyen-Thanh-Thuong; Mavel, G.; Chabrier, P. C. R. *Hebd. Seances Acad. Sci., Ser. C* **1970**, *270*, 89; *Chem. Abstr.* **1970**, *72*, 110697.

(11) Although reduction of **3** (–0.5 V vs. SCE) would be expected to occur in the electrolysis, the corresponding thiol ($\text{R}'\text{SH}$) could not be detected on TLC or by an oxidation peak.

(12) Goldwhite, H.; Saunders, B. C. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1955**, 3564.

(13) It cannot be ruled out that the reaction of phosphites **2** with **c** would also provide **1**.²

(14) Kice, J. L.; Rogers, T. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *96*, 8015.

S-Cyclohexyl O,O-Dimethyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Methyl, R' = Cyclohexyl, Entry 4): bp 64–68 °C (0.02 torr); IR (neat) 1258 (P=O), 1188 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.04–2.51 (br, 10, CH_2), 2.98–3.56 (br, 1, CHS), 3.66, 3.88 (s, 6, CH_3).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3\text{PS}$: C, 42.85; H, 7.64. Found: C, 42.67; H, 8.03.

O,O-Dimethyl S-[2-(Methoxycarbonyl)ethyl] Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Me, R' = $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOMe}$, Entry 5): bp 57–62 °C (0.02 torr); IR (neat) 1740 (C=O), 1250 (P=O), 1180 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 2.50–3.50 (m, 4, CH_2), 3.72 (s, 6, CH_3), 3.92 (s, 3, CH_3).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_5\text{PS}$: C, 31.58; H, 5.74. Found: C, 31.11; H, 6.04.

O,O-Dimethyl S-(Ethoxycarbonyl)methyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Me, R' = CH_2COOEt , Entry 6): bp 76–80 °C (0.01 torr) (lit.²¹ bp 86 °C (0.05 torr)); IR (neat) 1740 (C=O), 1260 (P=O), 1185 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.28 (t, 3, CH_3), 3.45, 3.72 (s, 2 CH_2), 3.72, 3.93 (s, 6, CH_3), 4.31 (q, 2, CH_2S).

S-Benzyl O,O-Diethyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Ethyl, R' = Benzyl, Entry 8): bp 110–114 °C (0.02 torr) (lit.² bp 129–131.5 °C (0.15 torr)); IR (neat) 3055 (HAr), 1260 (P=O), 1162 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.30 (t, 6, CH_3), 3.81–4.40 (m, 6, CH_2), 7.11–7.53 (m, 5, HAr).

S-Butyl O,O-Diethyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Ethyl, R' = Butyl, Entry 9): bp 35–40 °C (0.01 torr) (lit.²² bp 131–133 °C (10 torr)); IR (neat) 1464 (CH_2), 1258 (P=O), 1162 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 0.70–1.10 (m, 3, CH_3), 1.10–1.93 (m, 4, CH_2), 1.33 (t, 6, CH_3), 2.53–3.10 (m, 2, CH_2S), 4.07 (q, 2, CH_2), 4.21 (q, 2, CH_2).

S-Cyclohexyl O,O-Diethyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Ethyl, R' = Cyclohexyl, Entry 10): bp 67–70 °C (0.01 torr) (lit.²³ bp 99–102 °C (0.2 torr)); IR (neat) 1249 (P=O), 1155 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.03–2.20 (br, 10, CH_2), 1.36 (t, 6, CH_3), 2.93–3.58 (br, 1, CHS), 4.09 (q, 2, CH_2), 4.23 (q, 2, CH_2).

O,O-Diethyl S-[2-(Methoxycarbonyl)ethyl] Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Et, R' = $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOMe}$, Entry 11): bp 67–70 °C (0.02 torr) (lit.²⁴ bp 137 °C (3.0 torr)); IR (neat) 1738 (C=O), 1248 (P=O), 1160 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.36 (t, 6, CH_3), 2.50–3.40 (m, 4, CH_2), 3.70 (s, 3, CH_3), 4.09 (q, 2, CH_2), 4.24 (q, 2, CH_2).

O,O-Diethyl S-(Ethoxycarbonyl)methyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Et, R' = CH_2COOEt , Entry 12): bp 70–75 °C (0.005 torr) (lit.²⁵ bp 78–81 °C (0.01 torr)); IR (neat) 1738 (C=O), 1258 (P=O), 1160 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.12–1.58 (m, 9, CH_3), 3.45, 3.70 (s, 2, CH_2S), 3.92–4.49 (m, 6, CH_2).

O,O-Diisopropyl S-Phenyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Isopropyl, R' = Phenyl, Entry 13): bp 88–92 °C (0.02 torr); IR (neat) 3048 (HAr), 1388, 1378, 1256 (P=O) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.24, 1.34 (dd, 12, CH_3), 4.48–5.04 (m, 2, CH), 7.26–7.66 (m, 5, HAr).

S-Benzyl O,O-Diisopropyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Isopropyl, R' = Benzyl, Entry 14): bp 90–95 °C (0.01 torr) (lit.²⁶ bp 126 °C (0.04 torr)); IR (neat) 3056 (HAr), 1390, 1380, 1258 (P=O) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.26, 1.36 (dd, 12, CH_3), 3.96, 4.17 (s, 2, CH_2), 4.41–4.97 (m, 2, CH_2), 7.10–7.50 (m, 5, HAr).

S-Cyclohexyl O,O-Diisopropyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Isopropyl, R' = Cyclohexyl, Entry 15): bp 60–65 °C (0.005 torr); IR (neat) 1452 (CH_2), 1386, 1376, 1246 (P=O) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 0.95–2.35 (br, 10, CH_2), 1.28, 1.38 (dd, 12, CH_3), 2.95–3.53 (br, 1, CHS), 4.43–4.99 (m, 2, CH).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_3\text{PS}$: C, 51.41; H, 8.99. Found: C, 51.12; H, 9.08.

O,O-Diphenyl S-Phenyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R =

Phenyl, R' = Phenyl, Entry 16): bp 106–110 °C (0.02 torr); IR (neat) 3048 (HAr), 1274 (P=O), 1190 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 6.95–7.65 (m, 15, HAr).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_3\text{PS}$: C, 63.15; H, 4.42. Found: C, 63.16; H, 4.49.

S-Benzyl O,O-Diphenyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Phenyl, R' = Benzyl, Entry 17): mp 64–66 °C (lit. mp 65–67 °C); IR (Nujol) 3040 (HAr), 1278 (P=O), 1194 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 4.03, 4.25 (s, 2, CH_2), 7.07–7.40 (m, 15, HAr).

S-Cyclohexyl O,O-Diphenyl Phosphorothiolate (1, R = Phenyl, R' = Cyclohexyl, Entry 18): bp 102–105 °C (0.01 torr); IR (neat) 3050 (HAr), 1485 (CH_2), 1262 (P=O), 1190 (PO) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 1.00–1.40 (br, 10, CH_2), 3.10–3.80 (br, 1, CHS), 7.30 (br, s, 10, HAr).

Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3\text{PS}$: C, 62.06; H, 6.08. Found: C, 62.03; H, 6.36.

Electrolysis of 3 (R' = Phenyl) and NaBr in MeCN. A mixture of 3 (R' = phenyl, 218 mg, 1 mmol) and NaBr (129 mg, 1.25 mmol) in MeCN (20 mL) containing Et_4NClO_4 (100 mg) was electrolyzed at 3 V (applied voltage), 4–3 mA/ cm^2 , at 29–30 °C for 2.5 h. After 2×10^{-3} faraday of electricity was passed and the solvent was removed, chromatography (SiO_2 , hexane/benzene) gave 4 (R' = phenyl, 11 mg, 4%) and recovered 3 (195 mg, 89%).

Electrolysis of 2 (R = Et) and NaBr in MeCN. A mixture of 2 (R = Et, 141 mg, 1 mmol) and NaBr (129 mg, 1.25 mmol), in MeCN (20 mL), was electrolyzed at 3 V (applied voltage), 1.4–1 mA/ cm^2 , at 27–28 °C for 6 h. After 1×10^{-3} faraday of electricity was passed and the solvent was removed, chromatography (SiO_2 , $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{AcOEt}$) gave 5 (R = Et, 63 mg) and recovered 2 (37 mg). IR and $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectra of 5 were identical with those of authentic sample.

Electrolysis of a Mixture of 2 and 3 without Using Halide Salts. A solution of 2 (R = Et, 320 mg, 2.3 mmol) and 3 (R' = phenyl, 222 mg, 1 mmol) in MeCN (20 mL) containing Et_4NClO_4 (100 mg) was electrolyzed at a constant voltage of 3 V (anode potential 1.0–1.2 V vs. Ag/AgClO_4), giving 2.8–0.1 mA/ cm^2 , at 19–25 °C. After passage of 3.5×10^{-3} faraday of electricity during 60 h, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was chromatographed (SiO_2 , hexane/benzene/ AcOEt) to give 1 (R = Et, R' = phenyl, 117 mg, 23%), 2 (117 mg, 37%), 3 (19 mg, 9%), and 4 (R' = phenyl, 54 mg, 22%).

Registry No. 1 (R = Me, R¹ = phenyl), 4237-00-7; 1 (R = Me, R¹ = benzyl), 7205-16-5; 1 (R = Me, R¹ = butyl), 26901-83-7; 1 (R = Me, R¹ = cyclohexyl), 70550-08-2; 1 (R = Me, R¹ = $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOMe}$), 70550-09-3; 1 (R = Me, R¹ = CH_2COOEt), 2088-72-4; 1 (R = Et, R¹ = phenyl), 1889-58-3; 1 (R = Et, R¹ = benzyl), 13286-32-3; 1 (R = Et, R¹ = butyl), 20195-07-7; 1 (R = Et, R¹ = cyclohexyl), 26437-23-0; 1 (R = Et, R¹ = $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOMe}$), 70550-10-6; 1 (R = Et, R¹ = CH_2COOEt), 2425-25-4; 1 (R = isopropyl, R¹ = phenyl), 15267-38-6; 1 (R = isopropyl, R¹ = benzyl), 26087-47-8; 1 (R = isopropyl, R¹ = cyclohexyl), 70550-11-7; 1 (R = phenyl, R¹ = phenyl), 70562-38-8; 1 (R = phenyl, R¹ = benzyl), 13879-47-5; 1 (R = phenyl, R¹ = cyclohexyl), 70550-12-8; 2 (R = Me), 868-85-9; 2 (R = Et), 762-04-9; 2 (R = isopropyl), 1809-20-7; 2 (R = phenyl), 4712-55-4; 3 (R¹ = phenyl), 882-33-7; 3 (R¹ = benzyl), 150-60-7; 3 (R¹ = butyl), 629-45-8; 3 (R¹ = cyclohexyl), 2550-40-5; 3 (R¹ = $(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{COOMe}$), 15441-06-2; 3 (R¹ = CH_2COOEt), 1665-65-2; 4 (R¹ = phenyl), 1212-08-4; 5 (R = Et), 107-49-3.

Convenient Synthesis of 9-Methylbenzo[a]pyrene¹

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In connection with some studies concerning the diol epoxide mechanism of carcinogenesis for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, we required a convenient synthesis

(1) In the earlier literature, this is referred to as 2'-methyl-3,4-benzopyrene; see "The Ring Index", 2nd Ed.; The American Chemical Society: Washington D.C., 1960, p 922, entry 6399 for the presently accepted numbering.

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