



Table I.  $^1\text{H}$  and Selected  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Data for the *C*-Acyl and *O*-Acyl Phosphoranones

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7

compound	carbon chemical shifts <sup>a</sup>										
	C-1	o	m	p	1	1-CH <sub>3</sub>	2	3	4	5	6
6a, R = H	117.7 (86.6)	134.6 (10.2)	130.4 (12.8)	135.3 (3.0)	66.3 (50.4)	21.6	166.5	64.8	13.3	201.3 (4.3)	28.7 (2.0)
6b, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	116.5 (86.0)	132.9 (10.8)	129.3 (13.2)	134.3	64.8 (50.0)	20.5	164.7	63.8	12.1	201.2 (4.2)	34.2 (1.5)
6c, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	117.7 (85.6)	134.0 (10.0)	130.3 (13.0)	135.3	66.1 (50.0)	21.6	165.9	64.9	13.2	202.1 (4.1)	35.2 (2.1)
7a, R = H	117.1 (91.7)	132.4 (10.0)	129.1 (12.8)	133.9	75.4 (93.5)	12.1 (7.5)	158.6 (12.0)	65.5	12.5	165.0	19.8
7b, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	117.7 (91.6)	133.0 (10.4)	129.7 (12.8)	134.4 (2.9)	75.7 (93.4)	12.5 (7.3)	159.3 (12.1)	66.0	12.9	168.1	28.0
7c, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph											

  

compound	proton chemical shifts <sup>b</sup>								
	PPh <sub>3</sub>	1-CH <sub>3</sub>	3	4	6	7	9	Ph	
6a, R = H	7.6-8.0	2.20 (d, 17.7)	4.15 (m)	1.10 (t, 7.1)	2.66				
6b, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	7.6-8.0	2.20 (d, 18.0)	4.15 (m)	1.10 (t, 7.2)	3.25 (H <sub>a</sub> , m)	2.66 (m)	3.64 (s)		
6c, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	7.6-8.0	2.11 (d, 16.2)	4.15 (m)	1.04 (t, 7.1)	3.22 (H <sub>b</sub> , m)	2.72 (m)	5.06 (AB q, 12.6)	7.30	
7a, R = H	7.40-8.00	1.65 (d, 14.5)	3.73 (q, 7.1)	0.53 (t, 7.1)	3.40 (H <sub>b</sub> , m)		5.09		
7b, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	7.40-7.90	1.67 (d, 14.7)	3.79 (q, 7.1)	0.54 (t, 7.1)	2.49 (s)	2.84 (m)	3.70 (s)		
7c, R = CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	7.40-8.00	1.62 (d, 14.6)	3.75 (q, 7.1)	0.50 (t, 7.1)	3.12 (m)	2.88 (m)	5.13 (s)	7.30	

<sup>a</sup> Chemical shifts in parts per million ( $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^{31}\text{P}$  coupling constants in hertz). <sup>b</sup> Chemical shifts in parts per million (multiplicity, hertz).

Table II.  $^{31}\text{P}$  Characterization<sup>a</sup>

compound	$^{31}\text{P}$ NMR (CDCl <sub>3</sub> ): $\delta$
6a	36.3
6b	36.0
7a	24.3
7b	24.3

<sup>a</sup> Chemical shifts relative to 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> standard.

Tables I and II list NMR data for the initially formed *O*-acyl phosphonium salts 7 and the ultimately formed *C*-acyl phosphonium salts 6. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  resonances were assigned on the basis of the chemical shifts and  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^{31}\text{P}$  coupling constants of previously studied phenyl-substituted phosphorus compounds<sup>6,7</sup> and by using low temperature heteronuclear  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  correlation spectroscopy.

The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data for 6 and 7 are consistent with the assigned structures. Importantly, the aromatic C-1 resonance of both sets of compounds occurs in an upfield position characteristic of a phosphonium salt<sup>6,7</sup> and the expected  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^{31}\text{P}$  coupling constants<sup>6,7</sup> are evident for the phenyl carbons. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signal for carbon 1 in structures 7 is downfield relative to model compounds.<sup>8</sup>

Ylides of the type 5 have been shown to be equilibrium mixtures of *cis* and *trans* enolate forms which show separate  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals.<sup>6,9</sup> Compound 7a would appear to be a single isomer by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $-35^\circ\text{C}$ ), and on the basis of the OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> proton chemical shift,<sup>9</sup> the configuration of the *O*-acyl phosphoranones 7 is tentatively assigned as shown.

The broad band decoupled  $^{31}\text{P}$  spectra for 6a, 6b, 7a, and 7b (Table II) gave the expected signals of tetravalent

phosphorus in the range  $\delta$  20-40<sup>10</sup> (downfield relative to 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>). No other intermediates were detected.

Reports of ylide alkylation,<sup>11</sup> triflations,<sup>12</sup> and acylations (aromatic acid chlorides only)<sup>13</sup> through oxygen have appeared, but the present study is unique in that the *O*-acyl species appear to be the precursors to the *C*-acyl compounds. Although presumably intramolecular, the exact mechanism for this conversion remains uncertain.

## Experimental Section

**Materials.** Acetyl chloride and 3-carbomethoxypropionyl chloride were distilled prior to use, and 3-carbobenzoypropionyl chloride was prepared from 3-carbobenzoypropanoic acid<sup>14</sup> by using oxalyl chloride.<sup>15</sup> Ethyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)propionate (5) was recrystallized four times from ethyl acetate/petroleum ether.

**NMR Spectroscopy.** NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian XL300 spectrometer in dry CDCl<sub>3</sub>.  $^1\text{H}$  (300 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  (75 MHz) spectra were routinely recorded at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  (122 MHz) spectra at  $+3^\circ\text{C}$ . For  $^{31}\text{P}$  measurements, a 10- $\mu\text{s}$  pulse, equivalent to a 45 $^\circ$  flip angle, with broad-band decoupling was used. A CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution of ylide 5 (0.2 mM) in an NMR tube was cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . One equivalent of the acid chloride was added, and the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$ . An external 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> standard was inserted, and the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra were recorded at  $3^\circ\text{C}$ . The samples were warmed to room temperature, and the appearance of the *C*-acyl phosphonium salts 6 was monitored by  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$ , and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy.

**Registry No.** 5, 5717-37-3; 6a, 119946-77-9; 6b, 119946-78-0; 6c, 119946-79-1; 7a, 119946-80-4; 7b, 119946-81-5; 7c, 119946-82-6; CH<sub>3</sub>COCl, 75-36-5; MeO<sub>2</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COCl, 1490-25-1; PhCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COCl, 119946-83-7.

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