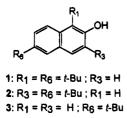
Regioselectivity in the Friedel-Crafts tert-Butylation of 1-Naphthol

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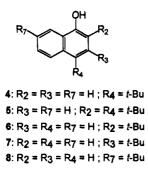
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The Friedel-Crafts tert-butylation of 2-naphthol has been extensively studied by Buu-Hoi *et al.*,¹ Ferris and Hamer,² and more recently Brady *et al.*³ The latter authors showed that the di-tert-butylated product was not 1,6-di-tert-butyl-2-naphthol (1) as Buu-Hoi had postulated, but rather 3,6-di-tert-butyl-2-naphthol (2), presumably formed via tert-butylation of 6-tert-butyl-2naphthol (3). By way of contrast, the tert-butylation of



1-naphthol has not been as extensively studied. In 1976 Miyata and Hirashima⁴ reported that the ZnCl₂-catalyzed reaction of 1-naphthol with tert-butyl chloride afforded a 42% yield of 4-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (4). The same authors also reported⁵ that the H₂SO₄-catalyzed reaction of 1-naphthol and tert-butyl alcohol afforded an unspecified amount of 2,4-di-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (5) and 19.5% of 2-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (6). These are the only reports for the syntheses of these two compounds.

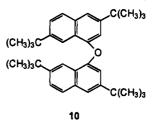


The synthesis of 4 and 6 was of interest to us in connection with our ongoing research on the calix[4]naphthalenes.⁶ However, the reaction of 1-naphthol with ZnCl₂-tert-butyl chloride using Miyata and Hirashima's conditions⁴ afforded only unreacted 1-naphthol (38%) and three other products. Their NMR spectroscopic properties (COSY, HETCOR, APT, and NOE) are consistent with their being 3-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (7), 7-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (8), and 3,7-di-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (9) in 8%,

- (1) Buu-Hoi, N. P.; LeBihan H.; Binon, F.; Rayet, P. J. Org. Chem. 1950, 15, 1060.
- (2) Ferris, R. T.; Hamer, D. J. Chem. Soc. 1960, 1409.
- (3) Brady, P. A.; Carnduff, J.; Leppard, D. G. Tetrahedron Lett. 1972, 4183 (4) Miyata, T.; Hirashima, T. Yuki Gosei Kagaku Koyokai Shi, 1976,
- 34, 434.
 (5) Miyata, T.; Hirashima, T. Yuki Gosei Kagaku Koyokai Shi 1976,
- 34, 435.
 (6) Georghiou, P. E.; Li, Z. Tetrahedron Lett. 1993, 34, 4183.
 - (7) Tashiro, M. Synthesis 1979, 12, 921.

34%, and 20% yields, respectively. For example, the NOE correlations for 9 depicted in Figure 1 were observed: irradiation of the signal at $\delta = 1.35$ due to the *tert*-butyl group at C3 enhanced both the doublet (J =1.8 Hz) centered at $\delta = 6.88$ due to H2 and the signal at $\delta = 7.33$ due to H4. Irradiation of the signal at $\delta = 1.41$ due to the *tert*-butyl group at C7 enhanced both the doublet (J = 1.8 Hz) centered at $\delta = 8.02$ due to H8 and the doublet of doublets at $\delta = 7.55$ (J = 8.7, 1.8) due to H6. Irradiation of the signal at $\delta = 5.26$ due to the hydroxyl hydrogen enhanced both the signals centered at $\delta = 6.88$ due to H2 and the doublet at $\delta = 8.02$ due to H8. Irradiation of the signal at $\delta = 7.33$ due to H4 enhanced the doublet (J = 8.7 Hz) centered at $\delta = 7.72$ due to H5. Irradiation of the signals at $\delta = 7.72$ (H5) enhanced the signals at $\delta = 7.55$ (H6) and 7.33 (H4).

There was no evidence for any 2- or 4-tert-butylsubstituted product being present in the crude reaction mixture. When the reaction was conducted over a 48 h period at ambient temperature, no product formation at all was observed. An increase in the amounts of tertbutyl chloride and the reaction period (16 h vs 6 h) resulted in the formation of 9 as the major product (80%) and a small amount (10%) of bis(3,7-di-tert-butyl-1naphthyl) ether (10). Several other variations of Miyata



and Hirashima's conditions employing ZnCl₂ were employed (Table 1, runs 1-7), but in no case was any 4 or 6 observed. Other experiments were conducted in which tert-butyl chloride was used with AlCl₃. Heating at 60 °C only resulted in intractable mixtures being formed (Table 1, run 9), but when the reaction was conducted at room temperature for 24 h, a mixture was obtained which consisted of 7 (20%), 9 (35%), and unchanged 1-naphthol (45%) (Table 1, run 8). When AlCl₃ was employed with tert-butyl alcohol, the reaction yielded 7 (20%), 9 (28%), and unchanged 1-naphthol (50%) (Table 1, run 10).

Using Miyata's other conditions, which employed sulfuric acid as the catalyst for the reaction of 1-naphthol with *tert*-butyl alcohol in glacial acetic acid, we obtained labile, complex reaction mixtures (Table 1, run 12). We were only able to isolate 16% of 6 and 13-15% of a second product which was shown to be 2-tert-butyl-1,4-naphthoquinone (11). We were unable to improve the yield of **6** (Table 1, run 11). On standing in air, 6 undergoes oxidation to form 11. In another paper, Hirashima and Miyata⁸ reported that 6 was twice as effective as BHT (2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol) as an antioxidant. These observations are similar to the findings of Brady et al.³ who reported that 3,6-di-tert-butyl-2-naphthol underwent autoxidation to form 3,6-di-tert-butyl-1,2-naphthoquinone, albeit much more slowly.

Brady et al.³ also reported that 2-methoxynaphthalene undergoes a similar tert-butylation substitution pattern

⁽⁸⁾ Hirashima, T.; Miyata, T. Yuki Gosei Kagaku Koyokai Shi 1976, 34, 433.

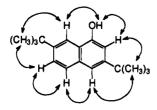
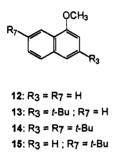


Figure 1. NOED correlations for 9.

as does 2-naphthol itself. However, we did not detect any product formation when 1-methoxynaphthalene (12) was treated with $\text{ZnCl}_2/\text{tert}$ -butyl chloride. When 12 reacted



with AlCl₃/tert-butyl chloride (Table 2, run 14), a mixture was obtained which consisted of 3-tert-butyl-1-methoxynaphthalene (13) (31%), crystalline 3,7-di-tert-butyl-1methoxynaphthalene (14) (35%), and unchanged starting material (12%). None of the mono-7-tert-butylated product (15) was observed. The NMR spectra of 13 and 14 were similar to those of 7 and 9, respectively. Reaction of 12 with AlCl₃/tert-butyl alcohol (Table 2, run 15) afforded 28% of 13, 53% of 14, and 18% unchanged starting material. Reacting 12 with sulfuric acid/tertbutyl alcohol/glacial acetic acid afforded unchanged starting material (48%), 15 (39%), and 14 (12%). Longer reaction times served only to increase the yield of 14. There was no evidence of any 2- or 4-substituted product being present in the crude reaction mixture.

Steric factors are important in Friedel-Crafts reactions using bulky reagent complexes. Brady et al.³ concluded that steric effects were more important than electronic effects in the tert-butylation of 2-naphthol and 2-methoxynaphthalene. The regioselectivity which we observed in the tert-butylation of 1-naphthol and 1-methoxynaphthalene is also consistent with this view. Electronic effects would have favored substitution at either the 2- or 4-positions, followed by the 5- or 7-positions. Of these positions the 7-position is the most sterically favored. Thus, both electronic and steric effects combine to favor tert-butylation at C7 of 1-naphthol with ZnCl₂/ tert-butyl chloride and at C7 with 12 with tert-butyl alcohol/acid catalysis. For the second tert-butylation, the 3-position is sterically the most favored position. This regioselectivity is reversed when either AlCl₃/tert-butyl chloride or AlCl₃/tert-butyl alcohol is employed as the tertbutylating reagent with either 1-naphthol, or 12. Thus, when AlCl₃ is the Lewis acid, tert-butylation occurs regioselectively at the C3 of 1-naphthol and 12. It is only with the sulfuric acid/acetic acid reaction with 1-naphthol that a small amount of the 2-substituted product forms but it is labile and easily oxidizes to form 11. On the other hand, when these same conditions were employed with 12, the major products formed were once again controlled by the steric factors that were operative in the ZnCl₂/tert-butyl chloride conditions. There is a possibility

of course that 4 could have been produced in these reactions but that once formed, the *tert*-butyl group undergoes a rapid 1,2-migration to give 7. We do not believe that this is likely since Kakiuchi *et al.*⁹ have reported that at least for 4-methylnaphthalene, this type of rearrangement did not occur with AlCl₃ alone but did so only with photoirradiation in the presence of AlCl₃.

Experimental Section

Melting points (mp) were determined on a Fisher-Johns apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Mattson Polaris FT instrument. Mass spectral (MS) data were from a V.G. Micromass 7070HS instrument. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR (75.47 MHz) spectra in CDCl₃ were recorded with a GE GN-300NB spectrometer. Proton nuclear Overhauser effect difference (NOED) spectra were obtained from zero-filled 32K data tables to which a 1-2 Hz exponential line-broadening function had been applied. A set of four "dummy" scans was employed to equilibrate the spins prior to data acquisition. No relaxation delay was applied between successive scans of a given frequency. ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR assignments are based on a combination of COSY, HETCOR, APT, and NOE experiments.

Typical Conditions for the Reactions of 1-Naphthol with (a) ZnCl₂/tert-Butyl Chloride (Miyata and Hirashima Conditions). To a solution of tert-butyl chloride (0.81 mL, 7.6 mmol) and 1-naphthol (1.10 g, 7.6 mmol) in 35 mL of tetrachloroethane was added zinc chloride (1.036 gm, 7.6 mmol). The mixture was stirred under nitrogen at 60 °C for 6 h. The reaction was worked up by the addition of 15 mL of dichloromethane and washing three times with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. A dark oily residue was obtained from which 100 mg was chromatographed by PLC using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether 15:85 to give in increasing order of polarity 3,7-di-tertbutyl-1-naphthol (9) (32 mg), 3-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (7) (13 mg), 7-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (8) (55 mg), and 1-naphthol (62 mg). The di-tert-butyl product 9 was crystalline. Mp: 141-142 °C. ¹H NMR δ : 1.35 (s, 9H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 5.26 (s, $\overline{O}H$), 6.88 (d, J = 1.8Hz, 1H, H2), 7.33 (b, 1H, H4), 7.55 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H, H6), 7.72 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.02 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H8). MS m/z: 256 (66, M⁺), 241 (100), 213 (2), 185 (4), 157 (4). HRMS: M⁺ 256.1835, calcd for C₁₈H₂₄O 256.1827. The 3-tertbutylated product 7 is an oil whose ¹H NMR and MS spectra reveal the presence of a small amount of 9 that could not be separated even after several chromatographic attempts. ¹H NMR δ : 1.38 (s, 9H), 6.92 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H2), 7.37 (b, 1H, H4), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H, H6,H7), 7.76 (m, 1H, H5), 8.18 (m, 1H, H8). MS m/z: 200 (60, M⁺), 185 (100), 157 (13) 144 (11). HRMS: M⁺ 200.1211 calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O 200.1200. The 7-tertbutylated product 8 is an oil whose ¹H NMR spectrum reveals the presence of a small amount (<5%) of 7 that could not be separated even after several chromatographic attempts. ¹H NMR δ : 1.43 (s, 9H), 6.79 (dd, J = 0.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H, H2), 7.24 (dd, J = 7.5, 8.4 Hz 1H, H3), 7.39 (m, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H4), 7.56(dd, J = 2.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H, H6), 7.76 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.10(b, 1H, H8). MS m/z: 200 (50, M⁺), 185 (100), 157 (13), 144 (7). HRMS: M^+ 200.1201 calcd for $C_{14}H_{16}O$ 200.1200.

When the quantity of *tert*-butyl chloride was doubled and the reaction was maintained at 60 °C for 22 h before workup as described above, bis(3,7-di-*tert*-butyl-1-naphthyl) ether (10) crystallized from a methanol solution of the crude product. On TLC (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether 30:70) 10 was the least polar of the *tert*-butylated products obtained and had mp 275 °C dec. ¹H NMR δ : 1.28 (s, 9H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 7.14 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H2), 7.51 (b, 1H, H4), 7.62 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H, H6), 7.82 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.28 (b, 1H, H8). ¹³C NMR δ : 31.1 (CH₃), 31.3 (CH₃), 34.9 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.0 (C(CH₃)₃), 111.7 (C2), 116.6 (C8), 117.4 (C4), 124.8 (C9), 125.4 (C6), 127.5 (C5), 132.9 (C10), 148.0;148.3 (C7;C3), 153.1 (C1). MS m/z: (100, M⁺), 479 (16), 239 (10), 232 (36), 57 (41). HRMS: M⁺ 494.3536 calcd for C₃₈H₄₆O 494.3549.

⁽⁹⁾ Kakiuchi, K.; Yamaguchi, B.; Tobe, Y. J. Org. Chem. 1991, 56, 5745.

Table 1. Reactions of 1-Naphthol in Cl₂CHCHCl₂ as Solvent Except As Noted

run no.	reactants (mole ratio based on 1-naphthol)	condns (temp (°C); time (h))	products (yields (%) based on total material isolated unless otherwise specifed)
1	t-BuCl/ZnCl ₂ (1:1)	60; 6	7 (8); 8 (34); 9 (20); 1-naphthol (38)
2	t-BuCl/ZnCl ₂ (2:1)	60; 22	7 (tr); 8 (5); 9 (80); 10 (10)
3	t-BuCl/ZnCl ₂ (1:1)	60; 48	7 (tr); 8 (11); 9 (37); 1-naphthol (27)
4	$t-BuCl/ZnCl_2(1:1)$	rt; 48	no reaction
5	$t-BuCl/ZnCl_2$ (1:0.01)	60; 6	no reaction
6	$t-BuCl/ZnCl_{2}$ (1:0.02)	60; 6	no reaction
7	$t-BuCl/ZnCl_{2}(1:0.1)$	60; 6	no reaction
8	t-BuCl/AlCl ₃ (1:1)	rt; 24	7 (20); 8 (tr); 9 (35); 1-naphthol (45)
9	t-BuCl/AlCl ₃ (1:1)	60; 24	intractable mixture; products complex—not identified
10	t-BuOH/AlCl ₃ (1:1)	rt; 24	7 (20); 8 (tr); 9 (28); 1-naphthol (50)
11	t-BuOH/CH ₃ ČOOH/H ₂ SO ₄ (1.0:17.5:0.50)	rt; 17	6 (16); 2-terf-butyl-1,4-naphthoquinone (13)—yields based on isolated product relative to starting material
12	t-BuOH/CH ₃ COOH/H ₂ SO ₄ (1.3:7.8:13.5)	$0-20; 10 \min$	intractable mixture; products complex—not identified

Table 2. Reactions of 1-Methoxynaphthalene (12) in Cl ₂ CHCHCl ₂ as Solvent Exc

run no.	reactants (mole ratio based on 12)	condns (temp (°C); time (h))	products (yields (%) based on total material isolated unless otherwise specifed)
13	t-BuCl/ZnCl ₂ (1:1)	60; 6	no reaction
14	t-BuCl/AlCl ₃ (1:1)	rt; 24	12 (34); 13 (31); 14 (35)
15	t-BuOH/AlCl ₃ (1:1)	rt; 48	12 (18); 13 (28); 14 (53)
16	t-BuOH/CH ₃ COOH/H ₂ SO ₄ (1.0:0.175:0.005)	rt; 3	no reaction
17	t-BuOH/CH ₃ COOH/H ₂ SO ₄ (1:0.175:0.005)	60; 6	no reaction
18	t-BuOH/CH ₃ COOH/H ₂ SO ₄ (1:17.5:0.50)	90; 48	hydrolysis to form 1-naphthol
19	t-BuOH/CH ₃ COOH/H ₂ SO ₄ (1.3:7.8:13.5)	$0-20; 10 \min$	12 (48); 14 (12); 15 (39)

(b) AlCl₉/tert-Butyl Chloride. To a solution of tert-butyl chloride (0.81 mL, 7.6 mmol) and 1-naphthol (1.10 g, 7.6 mmol) in 3.5 mL of tetrachloroethane was added AlCl₃ (1.04 g, 7.6 mmol). The mixture was stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was worked up by the addition of 15 mL of dichloromethane and washing three times with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. A dark oily residue was obtained from which 150 mg was chromatographed by PLC using ethyl acetate/hexane 15:85 to give in increasing order of polarity 9 (50 mg), 7 (30 mg), and 1-naphthol (65mg).

(c) H₂SO₄/Acetic Acid/tert-Butyl Alcohol. To a solution of 1-naphthol (1.44 g, 10 mmol), tert-butyl alcohol (0.94 mL, 10 mmol), and 10 mL of acetic acid was added 0.27 mL of 98% H₂-SO₄. The mixture was stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 17 h. The reaction was worked up by diluting with 20 mL of water and extracting with 20 mL portions of chloroform. The combined chloroform layers were washed with two 50-mL portions of water. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. A dark oily residue was obtained from which 200 mg was chromatographed on a column of silica gel using CHCl₃/ petroleum ether 70:30 as solvent. Two major fractions were collected and further purified by PLC using CHCl₃/petroleum ether 50:50 to give a product whose ¹H NMR spectrum is consistent with 2-tert-butyl-1-naphthol (32 mg) (6) and 2-tertbutyl-1,4-naphthoquinone (11) (26 mg). The 2-tert-butylated product 6 was a solid, mp 45-47 °C, which oxidized on standing in air: ¹H NMR δ : 1.53 (s, 9H), 5.48 (s, OH), 7.41 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 1H, H3), 7.48 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H4), 7.50-7.40 (m, 2H, H6,H7), 7.79 (m, 1H, H5), 8.02 (m, 1H, H8). The naphtho-quinone 11 was a solid. Mp: 73-75 °C. ¹H NMR δ : 1.38 (s, 9H), 6.85 (s, 1H, H3), 7.64-7.67 (m, 2H, H6, H7), 8.11-8.02 (m, 2H, H5, H8). MS m/z: 214 (100, M⁺), 199 (41) 171 (22), 159 (14), 157 (11), 128 (18).

Typical Conditions for Reaction of 1-Methoxynaphthol (12) with (a) AlCl₃/tert-Butyl Alcohol. To a solution of tertbutyl alcohol (0.54 mL, 0.57 mmol) and 12 (0.79 g, 0.50 mmol) in 2.5 mL of tetrachloroethane was added AlCl₃ (1.04 g, 4.9 mmol). The mixture was stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was worked up by the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate until the mixture became basic. The mixture was extracted with 25 mL portions of chloroform, and the combined organic layers were washed three times with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. A dark oily residue was obtained from which 100 mg was chromatographed by PLC using dichloromethane:petroleum ether 30:70 to give in increasing order of polarity: 3,7-di-tertbutyl-1-methoxynaphthalene (14) (70 mg), 3-tert-butyl-1-methoxynaphthalene 13 (37 mg), and 12 (24 mg). The di-tertbutylated product 14 is a solid. Mp: 109–110 °C. ¹H NMR δ : 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 4.02 (s, OCH₃), 6.86 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H2), 7.32 (b, 1H, H4), 7.54 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H, H6), 7.70 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.12 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H8). MS m/z: 270 (60, M⁺), 255 (100), 199 (10), 106 (15), 92 (11), 57 (33). HRMS: M⁺ 270.1989, calcd for C₁₉H₂₆O 270.1984. The 3-tertbutylated product 13 is an oil. ¹H NMR δ : 1.41 (s, 9H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 6.89 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H2), 7.36 (b, 1H, H4), 7.48–7.34 (m, 2H, H6,H7), 7.75 (m, 1H, H5), 8.18 (m, 1H, H8). MS m/z: 214 (60, M⁺), 199 (15), 106 (8). HRMS: M⁺ 214.1358, calcd for C₁₅H₁₈O 214.1357.

(b) H₂SO₄/Acetic Acid/tert-Butyl Alcohol. To a solution of 12 (4.6, 29 mmol), tert-butyl alcohol (2.75 g, 38 mmol), and 13 mL (0.23 mol) of acetic acid, maintained at 0-2 °C, was added dropwise 20 mL (0.39 mol) of 98% $\mathrm{H_2SO_4}$ which was also maintained at 0-2 °C. The mixture was maintained under nitrogen, allowed to warm to 15 °C, and then swirled and the temperature allowed to rise to 20-25 °C. The reaction was worked up by adding ice to the mixture and diluting it further with approximately 25 mL of H_2O . The mixture was extracted with 25 mL portions of chloroform, and the combined organic layers were washed with 25 mL portions of saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$ and a 200 mg portion of the oily residue was chromatographed by PLC as before, to give 14 (24 mg), 7-tertbutyl-1-methoxynaphthalene (15) (80 mg), and 12 (96 mg). The 7-tert-butylated product 15 was an oil. ¹H NMR δ : 1.42 (s, 9H), 4.20 (s OCH₃), 6.79 (dd, J = 0.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H, H2), 7.33 (dd, J =8.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H4), 7.58 (dd, J =8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H6), 7.74 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 8.20 (d, J =1.8 Hz, 1H, H8). MS m/z: 214 (60, M⁺), 199 (15), 106 (15), 92 (11), 57 (33). HRMS: M^+ 214.1367, calcd for $C_{15}H_{18}O$ 214.1357.

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Supplementary Material Available: High-resolution ¹H NMR spectra and mass spectra of compounds 6-10 and 13-15 (8 pages). This material is contained in libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead page for ordering information.

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