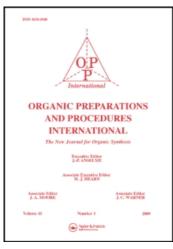
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# PREPARATION OF TOSYLATES OF PHENOLS AND ACIDIC ALCOHOLS

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PREPARATION OF TOSYLATES OF PHENOLS AND ACIDIC ALCOHOLS

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 $SO_2C1 + ROH \xrightarrow{OH^-, H_2O} CH_3$ CH-SO,OR

Although there are many reports of the preparation of the title compounds,<sup>1</sup> each one differs somewhat from the next and the yields are variable.

We wish to report a simple preparation of tosylates of phenols and of acidic alcohols. The method involves stirring an acetone solution of tosyl chloride and the alcohol (or phenol) with an excess of aqueous base, removal of the solvent, and isolation of the product. Reaction time is conveniently overnight, but could be reduced to as little as 4 hrs in the case of phenol without effect on the yield. The yields in many cases were better than those reported and were generally above 90%, except when a non-acidic alcohol such as <u>n</u>-butanol was used.<sup>2</sup> The low yield in this case

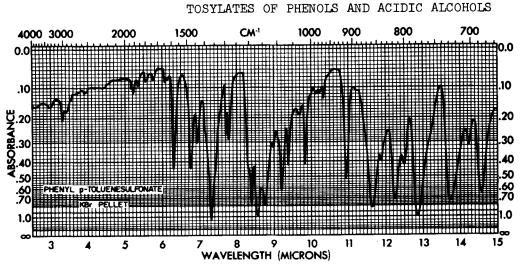
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	m.p. (°C)		(°C)
Compound	Yield (%)	Found	Lit. (ref.)
<u>n</u> -BuOTos	50 <sup>a</sup>	-	-
C6 <sup>H5OTos</sup>	98	94-96	94-95 (3)
p-ClC6H4OTos	91	70-72	79.6-80.6 (4)
<u>p</u> -BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> OTos	95	78-80	93-95 (5)
$\underline{p}-IC_{6}^{H}4^{OTOS}$	95	97-99	99 (6)
p-NO <sub>2</sub> C6 <sup>H4OTos</sup>	89	96-98	97-97.5 (7)
CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OTos	95	40-42	41 (8)
C6H5CHOTOS	94	113-116	113-116 (9)
C6H5CH2CHOTos	91	89-92	b, d
C7F15 <sup>CH2OTos</sup>	75	53-56	c, d
CH <sub>2</sub> OTos (CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OTos	99	96-98	92-94 (10)

TABLE

a. Crude yield, not isolated.

- b. New compound: <u>Anal</u>. Calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{15}F_{3}O_{3}S$ : S, 9.31. Found S, 9.19.
- New compound: <u>Anal</u>. Calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S:
  C, 32.5; H, 1.63. Found: C, 32.4; H, 1.58.
- d. The ir spectra of the new tosylates closely resembled those of the known tosylates (see fig.)





may be due to further reaction of the tosylate with the excess base, or, as suggested by a referee, competitive hydrolysis of the tosyl chloride. Other compounds prepared by this method are reported in the Table.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

Phenyl tosylate. To a stirred solution of 5.0 g. of tosyl chloride and 2.5 g. of phenol in 20 ml. of acetone was added dropwise 1.28 g. of sodium hydroxide in 8 ml. of water. After having been stirred overnight, the solution was evaporated in vacuo. The resulting semi-solid was partitioned between ether and water. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase washed with a further portion of ether. The combined ethereal extracts were evaporated and the residue recrystallized from a mixture of hexane and acetone to give 6.45 g. (98%) of phenyl tosylate, m.p. 94-96°, lit.<sup>3</sup> m.p. 94-95°.

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