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### ZINC ETHYL ACETOACETATE

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by comparison with the substance obtained above. From the benzene solution 312 mg of the tetralone I was recovered. The yield of III amounts to 90% based on consumed material.

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#### ZINC ETHYL ACETOACETATE

Submitted by O. Grummitt\*, J. Perz and J. Mehaffey (6/23/72) The Sherwin-Williams Company Cleveland, Ohio 44101

The preparation of zinc ethyl acetoacetate  $(I)^1$  has been successfully repeated by the authors and the zinc content of I

ZnCl<sub>2</sub> + 2 NaOCH<sub>3</sub> ----- Zn(OCH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> + NaCl



was determined by EDTA analysis (Calcd.: Zn, 20.1. Found: 20.2)<sup>2</sup> after acid hydrolysis. Purification of I by crystallization from hot methanol results in extensive decomposition. The pure product is obtained by dissolving I at room temperature in a 95:5 mixture of methanol-ethyl acetoacetate (2.7 g/280 ml) and cooling to 0°;<sup>3</sup> in this fashion, pure I (64% recovery), mp. 147-150°, is obtained.

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NITRATION OF ALKYLPHENOLS WITH DINITROGEN TETROXIDE

Submitted by E. V. P. Tao and C. F. Christie, Jr. (10/25/72) The Lilly Research Laboratories Eli Lilly and Company Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

A convenient and mild method for the large scale (0.2-10 moles) nitration of 4-alkylphenol involves the use of nitrogen tetroxide in acetonitrile.<sup>1-3</sup> Yields in this procedure were not optimized.



A typical procedure for the nitration of <u>p</u>-cresol is as follows. To a solution of 28 ml nitrogen tetroxide in 20 ml of acetonitrile cooled to  $10^{\circ}$  was added dropwise a solution of 21.6 g (0.2 mole) of <u>p</u>-cresol in 10 ml of acetonitrile; the temperature was maintained between 25-30° by controlling the rate of addition. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 7 hrs and was poured into a mixture of ice and water. The product was removed by filtration and washed with water and air dried to give 26.1 g (66%) of