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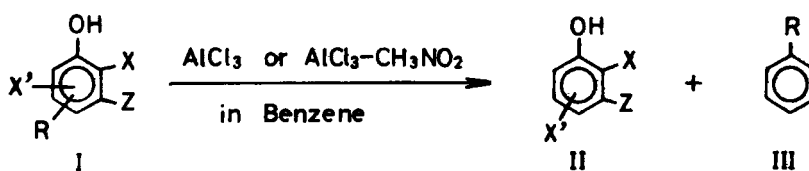
STUDIES ON POSITIONAL PROTECTIVE GROUPS ON AROMATIC RINGS I. A NEW PREPARATIVE METHOD FOR HALOPHENOLS WITH THE t-BUTYL OR BENZYL GROUP AS A PROTECTIVE GROUP

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It has been previously reported that under the influence of Friedel-Crafts catalysts, the benzyl group in diphenylmethanes is easily transferred to aromatics such as benzene, toluene, and chlorobenzene.¹⁻³

These results strongly suggested that the benzyl group might serve as a positional protective group in aromatic electrophilic substitution reactions.



R	X	X'	Z
a: 4-benzyl	Br	6-Br	H
b: 4- <u>t</u> -butyl	Br	6-Br	H
c: 4- <u>t</u> -butyl	Br	6-Cl	H
d: 4-benzyl	Cl	6-Cl	H
e: 6- <u>t</u> -butyl	Br	4-Br	H
f: 6-benzyl	Cl	4-Cl	H
g: 4- <u>t</u> -butyl	Cl	6-Cl	H
h: 6- <u>t</u> -butyl	Br	4-Br	Me
i: 6- <u>t</u> -butyl	Cl	4-Cl	Me
j: 4- <u>t</u> -butyl	Br	H	H
k: 4- <u>t</u> -butyl	Cl	H	H

X	X'	Z
a: Br	6-Br	H
b: Br	6-Cl	H
c: Cl	6-Cl	H
d: Br	4-Br	H
e: Cl	4-Cl	H
f: Br	4-Br	Me
g: Cl	4-Cl	Me

a: R=benzyl
b: R=t-butyl

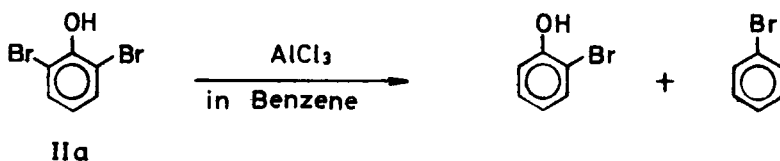
Hitherto, carboxyl,⁴ amino,⁵ sulfonic acid,⁶ *t*-butyl,⁷⁻⁹ and *t*-pentyl groups¹⁰ have been used for this purpose.

We now report a new method for the preparation of chloro- and bromophenols by using benzyl and *t*-butyl groups as positional protective groups in the chlorination and bromination of phenols.

The transalkylation reactions of dihaloalkylphenols (Ia-Ii) and monohaloalkylphenols (Ij-Ik) were carried out under various conditions in order to prepare the corresponding dihalophenols (IIa-IIg) and monohalophenols like 2-chloro- and 2-bromophenol. The results are summarized in Table 1.

As is shown in Table 1, when aluminum chloride (AlCl_3) was used as the catalyst for the transalkylation of bromine-substituted I, the expected products, II and III were formed. In addition, by-products resulting from transbromination of benzene by II (Runs 1-4, 7 and 10) were isolated. Indeed, treatment of IIa with AlCl_3 catalyst under the same experimental conditions afforded 2-bromophenol and bromobenzene.

However, the transbromination reaction was repressed to some extent at lower reaction temperature (Runs 2,4 and 7).



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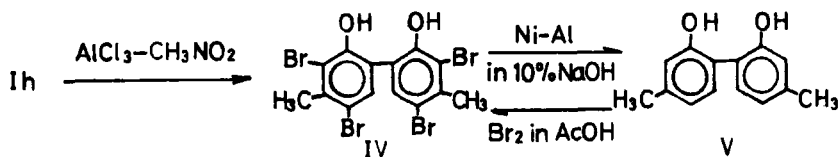
 Table 1. The Transalkylation Reaction of Haloalkylphenols (I) in Benzene (AlCl_3 or $\text{AlCl}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ Catalyst)^a

Run	I	Product (%)			
		II	III	X-C ₆ H ₄ OH	PhBr
1 ^e	a	a (58)	a (100)	2-Br- (24)	(28)
2 ^{c,i}	a	a (70)	a (88)	2-Br- (14)	(16)
3 ^e	b	a (78)	b (72)	2-Br- (25)	(23)
4 ^c	b	a (79)	b (81)	2-Br- (9)	(9)
5 ^{b,e}	b	a (15)	b (13)	—	—
6 ^{b,i}	b	a (74)	b (85)	—	—
7 ^c	c	b (97)	b (97)	2-Cl- (4)	(5)
8 ^{b,i}	c	b (19)	b (27)	—	—
9 ^f	d	c (78)	a (83)	—	—
10	e	d (64)	b (73)	2-Br- (15) 4-Br- (7)	(18)
11 ^{b,i}	e	d (42)	b (49)	—	—
12 ^g	f	e (52)	a (62)	—	—
13 ^d	f	e (89)	a (82)	—	—
14	g	c (80)	b (70)	—	—
15 ^{b,j}	h	f (95)	b (93)	—	—
16 ^{b,h,k}	h	f (46)	b (45)	—	—
17	i	g (74)	b (52)	—	—
18 ^b	j	—	b (81)	2-Br- (82)	—
19 ^b	k	—	b (69)	2-Cl- (72)	—

- a) Benzene/I = 30 mole/ 1 mole; catalyst/I = 1.2 mole/1 mole; catalyst is AlCl_3 ; temperature is 50° and time is 2 hrs. unless otherwise indicated. b) $\text{AlCl}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ catalyst. c) Temp.: 30° . d) Temp.: 80° . e) Time: 1 hr. f) Time: 3 hrs. g) Time: 5 hrs. h) Time: 6 hrs. i) Time: 10 hrs. j) IV ($\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{Br}_4\text{O}_2$) obtained 6.9% yield. k) IV obtained 16% yield.

It should also be noted that in contrast with AlCl_3 , the $\text{AlCl}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ catalyst^{2,3,11,12} which is known to be an inactive catalyst for the transbenzylation reactions of diphenylmethanes, was an excellent catalyst for the transalkylation reactions of *t*-butylhalophenols but not for the transhalogenation as well as the transbenzylation reactions. This apparently suggests that the $\text{AlCl}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ catalyst is the most suitable catalyst for the preparation of bromophenols by using *t*-butyl group as the positional protective group.

Although the $\text{AlCl}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ catalyzed transalkylation reaction of Ih and of other substrates afforded the expected IIf in good yield, small amounts of a by-product IV, (mp. 243-245°) was obtained. The yield of IV increased with reaction time, while the yield of IIf decreased (Runs 15 and 16). Compound IV was easily reduced by Raney Ni-Al alloy in 10% sodium hydroxide solution to a debrominated compound (V, mp. 117-118°) which could be brominated with bromine in acetic acid to IV in good yield; IV was also formed by the treatment of IIf with $\text{AlCl}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ catalyst under the same conditions as those used for the transalkylation reaction of Ih.



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These observation coupled with elemental analyses and spectral data showed IV and V to be 3,3', 5,5'-tetrabromo-4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-dihydroxydiphenyl and 4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-dihydroxydiphenyl respectively and suggest that this catalyst acts as an oxidizing agent for the oxidative coupling reaction of IIf to IV.

Further investigation concerning to the oxidative coupling reaction is in progress and the result will be published in the near future.

EXPERIMENTAL

All the melting points are uncorrected. The haloalkyl-phenols were prepared by the reported method and were purified by fractional distillation and/or recrystallization. Ia:¹³ bp. 195-198°/3mm, mp. 62-63°. Ib:¹⁴ bp. 128-136°/5mm, mp. 77-79°. Ic: mp. 49-50°. Id:¹⁵ mp. 64-65°. Ie:¹⁶ mp. 62-63°. If:¹⁵ bp. 150-152°/20mm, mp. 81-82°. Ig:⁹ bp. 95-105°/3mm, mp. 44-45°. Ih:¹⁷ mp. 53-54°. Ii:¹⁷ bp. 114-115°/5mm. Ij:¹⁸ bp. 180-188°/130mm. Ik:¹⁹ bp. 100-105°/7mm. Ic was unknown in literature.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₂BrClO: C, 45.54; H, 4.59
Found: C, 45.87; H, 4.40

IR cm⁻¹: 3560(νOH).

Aluminum chloride was purified by sublimation just prior to use, and aluminum chloride - nitromethane catalyst was prepared as reported previously.²⁰

Analytical Procedure.- The analyses were carried out by gas chromatography using a Yanagimoto Gas Chromatography, Yana-co YR-101: column, 30% high vacuum silicon grease, 75 cm; increase rate of column temperature, 12°/min, carrier gas, hydrogen, 30 ml/min.

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From the areas of individual peaks, mole % figure were calculated for each product after the relative response data had been determined by the internal standard method. Nitrobenzene was used as an internal standard. The data in the Table 1 are given as the average of at least three parallel determinations.

General Procedure.- After a mixture of 30 equivalents of benzene, 1.2 equivalents of the catalyst per equivalent of I and 1 mole of I had been maintained at a desired, constant temperature and a specified reaction time with shaking (120 cycle/min), the reaction mixture was quenched with 10% hydrochloric acid. The organic layer was separated and dried over sodium sulfate. A definite amount of nitrobenzene was added into the organic layer as an internal standard substance for the gas chromatographic analyses. After the analyses, the products were isolated and purified by distillation and/or recrystallization respectively.

Typical Procedures.-

a) The $AlCl_3$ catalyzed transalkylation reaction of Ig.- To a solution of 69g of Ig in 820 ml of benzene, was added gradually 51g of $AlCl_3$. After the mixture had been shaken at 30° for 3hrs, it was quenched with 100 ml of 10% hydrochloric acid. The separated organic layer was extracted with 10% sodium hydroxide solution and the extract was acidified with 10% hydrochloric acid. After extraction with ether and drying the ethereal extract over sodium sulfate, distillation

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afforded 46.8g (91%) of IIc, bp. 115-120^o/25mm; mp. 64-65^o, Lit.⁴ mp. 64.5-65.5^o.

Distillation of the residual organic layer extracted with 10% sodium hydroxide gave IIb (60%).

b) The AlCl₃-CH₃NO₂ Catalyzed Transalkylation Reaction of Ih.-

A mixture of 50g of Ih, 400 ml of benzene and AlCl₃-CH₃NO₂ (25g/46g) catalyst was shaken at 50^o for 2 hrs, the reaction mixture was then treated and worked up as described above.

The ethereal extract upon evaporation, afforded 42.4g of colorless crystals which upon addition of 100 ml of petroleum ether dissolved almost completely. Filtration of the insoluble crystals gave 3.4g (6.9%) of colorless crystals which upon recrystallization from petroleum benzene gave 3.0g (6.1%) of IV, mp. 243-245^o as colorless needles.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀Br₄O₂: C, 31.70; H, 1.89.

Found: C, 31.71; H, 1.74.

IR cm⁻¹: 3480 (νOH). Mass spectrum m/e; 526, 528, 530, 532, and 534 (M⁺).

Compound IIf (38g, 92%) was obtained by evaporating of the filtrate as colorless needles, mp. 41-43^o.

The Oxidative Coupling Reaction of IIf with AlCl₃-CH₃NO₂ Catalyst.-

After a mixture of 5.0g of IIf, 50 ml of benzene and AlCl₃-CH₃NO₂ catalyst (3g/5.5g) was shaken at 50^o for 6 hrs, the reaction mixture was treated as described above, to give 1.6g (32.4%) of IV.

Reduction of IV.- To a solution of 1g of IV in 20 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution, was gradually 6.0g of Raney Ni-Al

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alloy. After addition of the alloy, the reaction mixture was acidified with 10% hydrochloric acid, and 0.35g (87%) of V precipitated as colorless crystals. Recrystallization from petroleum ether afforded colorless needles, mp. 117-118°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{14}H_{14}O_2$: C, 78.48; H, 6.59.

Found: C, 78.40; H, 6.28.

IR cm^{-1} : 3200 (ν OH). Mass spectrum m/e : 214 (M^+).

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