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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Organic Preparations and Procedures International

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t902189982>

THE PREPARATION OF 5-CHLORO-2-INDOLINONE BY DIRECT CHLORINATION OF 2-INDOLINONE

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To cite this Article Pranc, Paul(1990) 'THE PREPARATION OF 5-CHLORO-2-INDOLINONE BY DIRECT CHLORINATION OF 2-INDOLINONE', *Organic Preparations and Procedures International*, 22: 1, 104 – 105

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00304949009356676

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00304949009356676>

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THE PREPARATION OF 5-CHLORO-2-INDOLINONE
BY DIRECT CHLORINATION OF 2-INDOLINONE

Submitted by
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5-Chloro-2-indolinone (2) is an important chemical intermediate used in the synthesis of compounds reported to be useful in the treatment of anxiety¹ and as anti-inflammatory agents.² A recent patent³ reviews the literature methods for preparing 2 and reports a two-step synthesis of 2, starting with 5-chloroindole. All of these methods require several steps. The bromination of 2-indolinone (1) yields 5-bromo-2-indolinone⁴, but apparently no one has reported the chlorination of 1. This paper describes the preparation of 2 from 1 by direct chlorination.



EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

The NMR spectra were obtained on a G. E. QE-300 spectrometer. The mass spectrum (MS) was taken using a CEC 21-110 spectrometer. Melting points were determined on a Mel-Temp apparatus and are uncorrected. The reactions were monitored by TLC on silica gel plates (Kieselgel 60), visualized by UV or iodine.

5-Chloro-2-indolinone (2).- Oxindole (1) (100.0 g, 0.75 mol) was dissolved in 2 L of water at 90°. Chlorine (52.9 g, 0.75 mol), by weight difference, was then bubbled into the hot solution over a period of 40 min. A brown precipitate formed during the chlorine addition. Stirring was continued for another 0.5 hr. After cooling to room temperature, the crude brown colored solid was collected and crystallized from 1 L of ethanol to yield 49.4 g (39%) of clear small crystals of 2, mp. 194-196°, lit.^{5,6} mp. 195-196°; TLC: Rf 0.43, EtOAc. MS: m/e 167 (M⁺). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ 10.5 (s, 1H, -NH-, exch. with D₂O), 7.2 (m, 2H, aromatic), 6.8 (d, 1H, aromatic), 3.5 (s, 2H, -CH₂-). The NMR is identical with that reported for authentic material.⁷

Anal. Calcd. for C₈H₆ClNO: C, 57.33; H, 3.61; N, 8.36; Cl, 21.15

Found: C, 57.48; H, 3.57; N, 8.18; Cl, 21.24

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