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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>

AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF 5-(3,4-DIMETHOXYPHENYL)-3-HYDROXY-4-NITROCYCLOHEXENE

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To cite this Article Ibañez, A. F. , Martínez, A. R. and Iglesias, G. Y. Moltrasio(1993) 'AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF 5-(3,4-DIMETHOXYPHENYL)-3-HYDROXY-4-NITROCYCLOHEXENE', *Organic Preparations and Procedures International*, 25: 5, 577 – 579

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00304949309458001

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00304949309458001>

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AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF

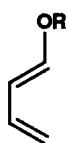
5-(3,4-DIMETHOXYPHENYL)-3-HYDROXY-4-NITROCYCLOHEXENE

Submitted by
(12/14/92)

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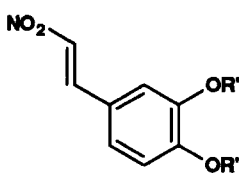
Substantial quantities of 5-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxy-4-nitrocyclohexene (**3c**) were required for a multi-step synthesis. The preparation of precursor compound (**3a**) by the Diels-Alder reaction¹ of 3,4-methylenedioxy- β -nitrostyrene (**2a**) with 1-acetoxy-1,3-butadiene (**1a**) reported to proceed in 35% yield, afforded only a 15% yield of **3b** with 3,4-dimethoxy- β -nitrostyrene (**2b**).³ We



1

a) R = Ac

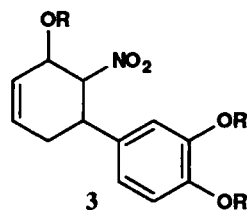
b) R = SiMe₃



2

a) R' = R' = CH₂

b) R' = CH₃



3

a) R = Ac; R' = R' = CH₂

b) R = Ac; R' = CH₃

c) R = H; R' = CH₃

decided to change the diene component for one containing a more potent electron-releasing group at the position 1. The reaction of 1-(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-butadiene (**1b**)^{4,5} with 3,4-dimethoxy- β -nitrostyrene (**2b**) in toluene in a sealed tube at 130° for 72 hrs gave **3c** (after *in situ* hydrolysis) in 70% yield (see Table for conditions).

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AW 80 spectrometer in CDCl₃ using TMS as internal reference. IR spectra were recorded on a Jasco A-200 as Nujol mulls. Elemental analyses were performed on a Coleman Analyzer. Melting points (uncorrected) were obtained on a Thomas Hoover apparatus.

TABLE 1. Diels-Alder Reaction of 3,4-Dimethoxy- β -nitrostyrene^a

Diene	Temp. (°C)	Time (hrs.)	Recovered 2b (%)	Adduct ^b (%)
1a	110	36	82	15
1a	140	36	48	—
1b	125	24	75	8
1b	120	60	25	45
1b	130	72	—	70
1b^c	115	36	87	—
1b^d	130	24	95	—

a) In toluene unless otherwise noted; b) Isolated as **3c** chloride after hydrolysis for reaction with **1b**;
c) Anhydrous zinc chloride used as catalyst; d) In THF.

3-Acetoxy-5-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-nitrocyclohexene (3b).- A mixture of 10 g (0.09 mole) of 1-acetoxy-1,3-butadiene,² 4 g (0.02 mole) of 3,4-dimethoxy- β -nitrostyrene³ and 50 mg of hydroquinone in toluene (30 mL) was heated in a sealed tube (CAUTION). The mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and the unreacted 3,4-dimethoxy- β -nitrostyrene was filtered off. In order to recover some adduct, 3,4-dimethoxy- β -nitrostyrene was recrystallized from ethanol. The ethanolic mother liquors and the filtrate (from above) were combined and then evaporated *in vacuo*. The adduct-rich residue was chromatographed (silica gel 30-70 mesh, toluene) to give **3b**, which was crystallized from ethanol to yield 0.96 g (15%) of **3b** as yellow crystals, mp. 141-142°. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.0 (s, 3H), 2.5 (m, 2H), 3.6 (m, 1H), 3.8 (s, 6H), 5.1 (m, 1H), 5.9 (m, 3H), 6.8 (s, 3H); IR: 1710 (C=O); 1610 (HC=CH); 1530 and 1350 (NO₂) cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉NO₆: C, 59.80; H, 5.96; N, 4.36. Found: C, 59.81; H, 5.93; N, 4.36

5-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxy-4-nitrocyclohexene (3c).- A mixture of 10 mL (0.055 mole) of **1b**,^{4b} 2.5 g (0.012 mole) of **2b** and toluene (10 mL) was heated in a sealed tube at 130° for 72 hrs. The cooled reaction mixture was diluted with 25 mL of tetrahydrofuran, acidified with 5% HCl (25 mL) and then stirred for 2 hrs at room temperature. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 40 mL), the organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (silica gel 30-70 mesh, benzene-ethyl acetate, 95:5), to yield 2.3 g (70%) of pure **3a**, mp. 119-120°. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.5 (m, 3H), 3.6 (m, 1H), 3.8 (s, 6H), 5.0 (m, 1H), 5.9 (m, 3H), 6.8 (s, 3H); IR: 3500 (OH); 1540 and 1335 (NO₂) cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₇NO₅: C, 60.20; H, 6.13; N, 5.02. Found: C, 60.25; H, 6.12; N, 5.01

Acknowledgement.- This work was supported by SECYT and CONICET grants.

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**AN IMPROVED PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION
OF 1,6-DICARBOXYHEX-3-ENE**

Submitted by
(10/14/92)

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Generation of *cisoid* C=C bonds has been one of the crucial steps in the synthesis of many natural products.¹ The Z-olefinic diester **4c** has been employed as a suitable starting material in a few instances.² For the preparation of this diester, we previously reported a method using H₂WO₄-H₂O₂ for the vicinal hydroxylation of *cis,cis*-1,5-cyclooctadiene (**1**) to obtain the *trans*-diol **2** in 65% yield.³ The *trans*-diol **2** was readily cleaved with sodium metaperiodate in moist ether to give the dialdehyde **4a** which, on oxidation with Jones' reagent,⁴ furnished the diacid **4b** in 65% overall yield from the *trans*-diol **2**. The diacid **4b** was esterified with methanol in the presence of conc. H₂SO₄ to afford the diester **4c** in 64% yield. This method, though favorably comparable with others,⁵ required large quantities of the expensive reagent, sodium metaperiodate. We now report a shorter and inexpensive method for the preparation of the Z-olefinic acid **4b** from the *trans*-diol **2**. Jones' reagent itself⁶ can be used for the cleavage of the *trans*-diol **2** as well as for the oxidation of the dialdehyde **4a** formed *in situ*. The treatment of the *trans*-diol **2** with Jones' reagent at 5° furnished the diacid **4b** in one step directly in 70% yield.⁷ This new method not only avoids the use of expensive oxidant but also gives better yields of the diacid **4b** by a shorter route. The Jones' reagent is also equally effective in cleaving *cis*-diol **3** to diacid **4b**.