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### AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF 2-METHALLYLOXYPHENOL

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## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Melting point are uncorrected and were taken on a Büchi 535 apparatus. Elemental analyses were carried out on a Carlo Erba 1106 apparatus. IR spectra were determined on a Shimadzu IR-435 spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recoded on a Bruker QC-P200 spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> using TMS as internal standard.

**General Procedure for the Synthesis of bis(3-Aryl-3-oxo-1-propenyl)benzenes.**- A mixture of **1** (0.5 mmol), **2** (1 mmol) and BMPTO (0.03g)<sup>3</sup> in DMSO (5 mL) was stirred at 80°; the progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. When the reaction was complete, water (5 mL) was added and precipitated the product was collected and dried. The pure products (**4** and **5**) were obtained by column chromatography on silica gel (1:2 petroleum ether-dichloromethane).

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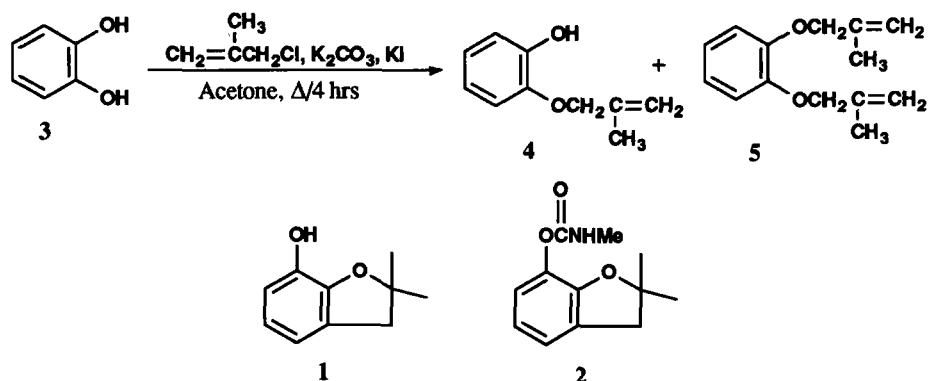
AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF 2-METHALLYLOXYPHENOL<sup>†</sup>

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2,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-7-hydroxybenzofuran (**1**),<sup>1</sup> a synthon for the insecticide carbofuran (**2**)<sup>2</sup> is obtained by Claisen rearrangement-cyclization of 2-methallyloxyphenol (**4**).<sup>1</sup> Various methods have been reported for the preparation of **4** by monoalkylation<sup>3</sup> of catechol by β-methallyl chloride. All reported methods are patented and involve long reaction time<sup>3a,c</sup> or preparation *in situ*,<sup>3e</sup> or water-

aided preparation of 4<sup>3f</sup> in 48% conversion. We now report the preparation of 4 from catechol in 70% conversion by refluxing an acetone solution of catechol with  $\beta$ -methallyl chloride in the presence of  $K_2CO_3$  for 4 hrs. A simple work-up allows the clean separation of the products in 54% yield. The reported procedure in contrast gives 44% yield after refluxing the reaction mixture for 30 hrs and lengthy work-up involving standing for 18 hrs followed by filtration, concentration and extraction of the filtrate with  $CHCl_3$ .



### EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Petroleum ether refers to fraction of bp. 60-80°. IR spectra were recorded on a Pye-Unicam SP-3 IR spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian T-60 spectrometer using TMS as an internal standard. The mass spectra were recorded on a CEC spectrometer model 21-110B using an ionizing voltage 70 eV and a direct inlet system. Yields are based on catechol consumed.

**2-Methallyloxyphenol (4).**- A mixture of catechol (5.5 g, 0.05 mol),  $K_2CO_3$  (6.9 g, 0.05 mol), KI (8.3 g, 0.05 mol) and  $\beta$ -methallyl chloride (5 g, 0.055 mol) in 31.25 mL of acetone was refluxed for 4 hrs cooled and diluted with water (70 mL). The solution was acidified with conc. HCl and extracted in sequence with petroleum ether (3 x 60 mL) and ethyl acetate (3 x 60 mL). The latter extract was washed with water, brine and dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ). Removal of solvent gave 1.2 g (22%) of unchanged catechol, mp. 105°. The petroleum ether extract was washed successively with 20% KOH (3 x 25 mL), water, brine and dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ). The solvent was removed and the residue was distilled to give 1,2-dimethallyloxybenzene (5), bp. 120° (bath)/2.5 mm, as a pale yellow oil (1.4 g, 15%). IR (neat): 3100, 3040, 1675, 1610, 1510, 1140, 920, 810 and 760  $cm^{-1}$ .  $^1H$  NMR ( $CCl_4$ ):  $\delta$  1.75 (s, 6H, 2 x  $CH_3$ -C=), 4.3 (s, 4H, 2 x  $-OCH_2$ ), 4.8 and 5.03 (4H, 2 x  $=CH_2$ ), 6.7 (s, 4H, aromatic). MS:  $M^+$  218.

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{18}O_2$ : C, 77.03; H, 7.37. Found: C, 77.28; H, 7.25

The alkaline layer was acidified with conc. HCl and extracted with petroleum ether (3 x 60 mL). The organic layer was washed with water, brine and dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ). Removal of solvent and the distillation of the residue furnished a pale yellow oil (4.41 g, 70%) of 2-methallyloxyphenol (4), bp. 110-120°/2.5mm. lit.<sup>1</sup> bp. 78.5-85°/0.55mm. IR (neat): 3540, 3060, 1670, 1610, 1510, 1120, 920, 790

and 750 cm<sup>-1</sup>. H NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>): δ 1.8 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-C=), 4.46 (s, 2H, -OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.9, 5 (2H, CH<sub>2</sub>=C< ), 5.46 (s, 1H, OH), 6.76 (m, 4H, aromatic).

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### SYNTHESIS OF 1-HYDROXY-7-PHENOXYNAPHTHALENE

Submitted by  
(01/19/93)

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Cleavage of diaryl ethers containing one-to-three rings and a hydroxyl group is an important pathway for depolymerization of low rank coals, and oil shales, into synthetic liquid fuels.<sup>1</sup> There are no reports in the literature on the synthesis of such structures to allow study of their reactivity. Preparation of 7-phenoxy-1-hydroxynaphthalene (**5**) is now reported *via* the synthesis of a tetralone derivative (**4**) in which the phenoxy group is already built in the bicyclic system.

Treatment of the diphenyl ether (**1**) with succinic anhydride in the presence of AlCl<sub>3</sub> by a literature procedure<sup>2</sup> gave 3-(p-phenoxybenzoyl)propionic acid (**2**) in 90% yield. Clemmensen reduction<sup>3</sup> of the carbonyl function of **2** gave (**3**) 4-(4-phenoxyphenyl)butyric acid<sup>3</sup> in only 40% yield. However,