

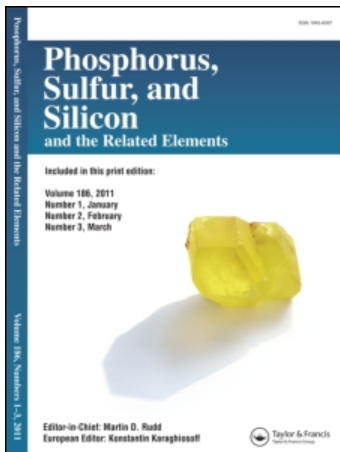
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S. Inokawa^a; H. Yamamoto^a

^a Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan

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A NEW SYNTHETIC APPROACH TO α,β -UNSATURATED PHOSPHONATES (1-METHYLENEALKANE-PHOSPHONATES)

S. INOKAWA and H. YAMAMOTO

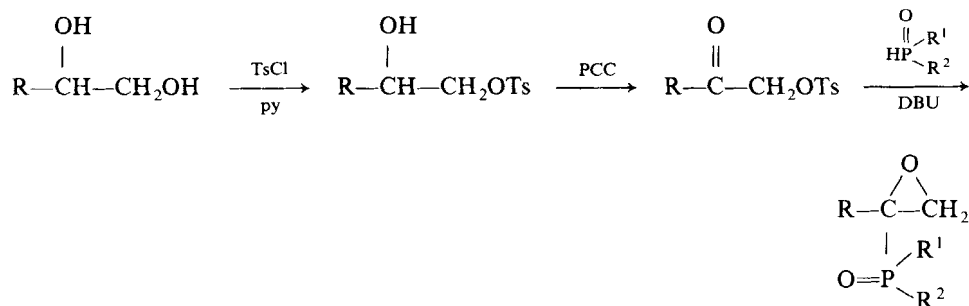
Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama,
700 Japan

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α,β -Unsaturated phosphonates were prepared in good yields by refluxing 1,2-epoxy-1-alkyl-ethanephosphonates in methanol with thiourea (5 equiv.) for 4 hours.

Many methods¹⁻⁵ for the preparation of α,β -unsaturated phosphonates have been reported but these procedures are rather complicated or the yields are sometimes poor.

In the course of our studies on the phosphorus-sugars, we have found a convenient and very mild method for the preparation of 1,2-epoxy-1-alkyl-ethanephosphonates (phosphinate).⁶⁻⁹

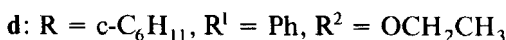
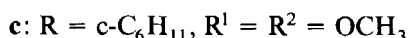
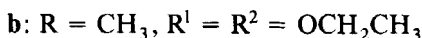
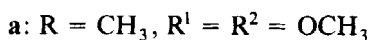
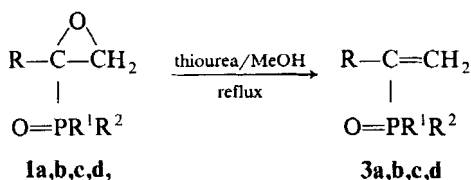
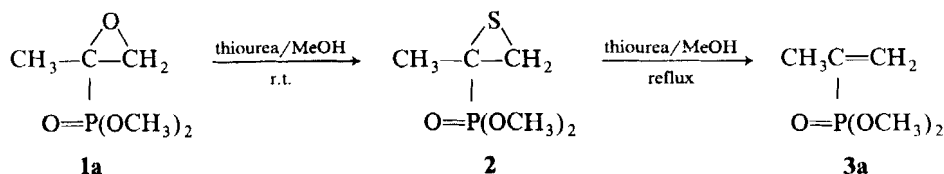


PCC: pyridinium chlorochromate
DBU: 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene

We have now used these easily obtainable 1,2-epoxy-1-alkylphosphonates (phosphinate) **1** as starting materials, and we have prepared α,β -unsaturated phosphonates (phosphinate) in moderate yields under mild conditions.

Dimethyl 1,2-epoxy-1-methylethanephosphonate **1a** in methanol was treated with thiourea (2 equiv.) at room temperature for 4 hours to give dimethyl 1,2-epithio-1-methylethanephosphonate **2** in an almost quantitative yield as determined by its ¹H-N.M.R. spectrum. Compound **2** in methanol was heated under reflux with thiourea (4 equiv.) to give dimethyl isopropenylphosphonate **3a** in an almost quantitative yield as determined by ¹H-N.M.R..

Alternatively, **3a** was prepared directly by refluxing **1a** in methanol with thiourea (5 equiv.) for 4 hours in an almost quantitative yield by ¹H-N.M.R. spectroscopy and in 85% yield after distillation.



Similarly, diethyl isopropenylphosphonate **3b**, dimethyl 1-cyclohexylvinylphosphonate **3c**, and ethyl (1-cyclohexylvinyl)phenylphosphinate **3d** were prepared in good yields from diethyl 1,2-epoxy-1-methylethanephosphonate **1b**, dimethyl 1,2-epoxy-1-cyclohexylethanephosphonate **1c**, and ethyl (1,2-epoxy-1-cyclohexylethyl)phenylphosphinate **1d**, respectively.

EXPERIMENTAL

¹H-N.M.R. spectra in CCl₄ solution were recorded with an Hitachi-Perkin-Elmer R-20A (60 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts in ppm are reported relative to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.0) as the internal standard.

TABLE I
Yields, boiling points, elemental analyses, and ¹H-N.M.R. data for **1a-1d**

Compound	Yield (%)	b.p. (°C/mm)	Lit. b.p. (°C/mm)	Required		Found	
				C	H	C	H
1a	86	60/0.1	60/0.1 ⁹	—	—	—	—
1b	90	59-61/0.1	75.5-77/1.5 ¹⁰	—	—	—	—
1c	72	93-94/0.1	—	51.27	8.17	51.02	8.14
1d	62	132-134/0.1	—	65.29	7.87	64.97	7.81

Compound	¹ H-N.M.R. (CCl ₄) δ (ppm)
1c	0.8-2.0 (m, 11 H, c-C ₆ H ₁₁); 2.68, 2.90 (t, t, 2 H, $J_{\text{gem-H}} = J_{\text{cis-PH}} = J_{\text{trans-PH}} = 5.5$ Hz, CH ₂); 3.67 (d, 6 H, $J_{\text{PH}} = 10.2$ Hz, POCH ₃)
1d	1.21, 1.28 (t, t, 3 H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, POCH ₃); 0.8-2.2 (m, 11 H, c-C ₆ H ₁₁); 2.31, 2.59, 2.79, 3.04 (t, t, t, t, 2 H, $J_{\text{gem-H}} = J_{\text{cis-PH}} = J_{\text{trans-PH}} = 5.1$ Hz, CH ₂); 3.6-4.3 (m, 2 H, POCH ₂ C), 7.1-8.1 (m, 5 H, C ₆ H ₅)

TABLE II
 Yields, boiling points, elemental analyses, and $^1\text{H-N.M.R.}$ data for **3a-3d**

Compound	Yield (%)	b.p. ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{mm}$)	Lit. b.p. ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{mm}$)	Required		Found	
				C	H	C	H
3a	85	38-40/1	38-41/1 ³	—	—	—	—
3b	85	49-51/1	46-47/1 ⁵	—	—	—	—
3c	79	82-83/1	80-81/1 ⁵	—	—	—	—
3d	67	129-132/0.1	—	69.54	8.39	69.05	8.33

Compound	$^1\text{H-N.M.R.}$ (CCl_4) δ (ppm)
3d	1.33 (t, 3 H, J_{HH} 7.0 Hz, POCH_3); 0.95-2.80 (m, 11 H, $c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11}$); 4.05 (d of q, 2 H, J_{PH} 7.0 Hz, POCH_2C); 5.73 (d, 1 H, $J_{\text{trans-PH}}$ 45.2 Hz, trans-P=CH); 5.95 (d, 1 H, $J_{\text{cis-PH}}$ 22.0 Hz, cis-P=CH); 7.35-8.15 (m, 5 H, C_6H_5)

1. *Starting materials.* Dimethyl 1,2-epoxy-1-methylethanephosphonate **1a**, diethyl 1,2-epoxy-1-methylethanephosphonate **1b**, dimethyl 1,2-epoxy-1-cyclohexylethanephosphonate **1c**, and ethyl (1,2-epoxy-1-cyclohexylethyl)phenylphosphonate **1d** were prepared by the method of Inokawa *et al.*⁶⁻⁹ Yields and data are shown in Table I.

2. *Dimethyl 1,2-epithio-1-methylethanephosphonate 2.* A solution of **1a** (2.0 g) in methanol (50 ml) was stirred with thiourea (1.8 g) in room temperature for 3 hours and evaporated *in vacuo*. Benzene was added, the precipitates were filtered off; the benzene solution was washed with water, dried (sodium sulfate), evaporated *in vacuo*, and distilled to give **2** (1.9 g, 86%) (b.p. 56-58 $^{\circ}\text{C}/0.1$ mm) as an oil. $^1\text{H-N.M.R.}$ (CCl_4): δ (ppm) 1.64 (d, 3 H, J_{PH} 12.1 Hz, CH_3); 2.35, 2.72 (d, d, 2 H, $J_{\text{cis-PH}} = J_{\text{trans-PH}}$ 10.9 Hz, $J_{\text{gem-H}}$ 0.0 Hz, CH_2); 3.75 (d, 6 H, J_{PH} 10.2 Hz, POCH_3). Mass spectrum, m/z : 182 (M^+).

3. *1-Methylenealkanephosphonates (phosphinate).* General procedure: A solution of **1** (15 mmol) in methanol (60 ml) was refluxed with thiourea (75 mmol) for 4 hours. The work-up as described for **2** gave **3** in a good yield. Yields and data are shown in Table II.

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