

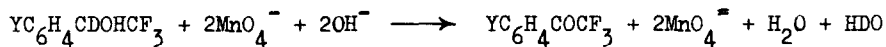
THE DEUTERIUM ISOTOPE EFFECT IN THE PERMANGANATE
OXIDATION OF AROMATIC TRIFLUOROMETHYL ALCOHOLS

R. Stewart and R. Van der Linden

Department of Chemistry, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

(Received 21 December 1959)

PHENYL trifluoromethyl carbinols are oxidized by aqueous alkaline permanganate to the corresponding ketones. We wish to report a kinetic isotope effect of unusual size for the reaction of the l-deuterio analogs of these compounds.



l-Phenyl-2,2,2-trifluoroethan-1-ol (I) and its p-methyl (II) and m-bromo (III) derivatives were prepared by LiAlH_4 reduction of the corresponding ketones. (II), b.p., 94.5 (12 mm) $n_D^{24} = 1.4650$. Found: C, 57.1; H, 5.0. $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{O}$ requires C, 56.9; H, 4.7. Phenylurethan of (II), m.p., 104-105. Found: C, 62.1; H, 4.5; N, 5.1. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2\text{N}$ requires C, 62.1; H, 4.5; N, 5.1. (III), b.p. 115 (12 mm), $n_D^{27} = 1.5005$. Found: C, 38.0; H, 2.5; Br, 31.6. $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{BrO}$ requires C, 37.1; H, 2.4; Br, 31.4.

p-Tolyl trifluoromethyl ketone¹ was prepared from p-tolyl magnesium bromide and trifluoroacetic acid. Bromination of phenyl trifluoromethyl

¹ J.D. Park, H.A. Brown and J.R. Tacker, J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 73, 709 (1951)

ketone gave the m-bromo derivative, b.p., 83.5 (12 mm), $n_D^{24} = 1.5030$.

Found: C, 38.2; H, 1.6; F, 20.6. $C_8H_9OF_3Br$ requires C, 38.0; H, 1.5; F, 22.5. 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazone, m.p. 121.5-123. Found: C, 38.8; H, 2.5; N, 12.0; F, 12.0. $C_{14}H_8O_4N_2F_3Br$ requires C, 38.6; H, 1.9; N, 12.9; F, 13.2.

1-Phenyl-2,2,2-trifluoroethan-1-ol-1-d and its p-methyl and m-bromo derivatives were prepared by $LiAlD_4$ reduction. The infrared spectra of these compounds were identical with those of their protio analogs, I, II and III, except for the shift of the C-H stretching band from 2895 cm^{-1} to 2150 cm^{-1} .

The purity of the alcohols was checked by vapour phase chromatography and samples for reaction were collected in several cases by this means. The reaction was followed as previously described². The oxidation in aqueous solution follows the rate law

$$V = k [ArCHOHCF_3][MnO_4^-][OH^-]$$

for both the protio and deuterio compounds with the following rates.

Permanganate oxidation rates in 0.2 M NaOH at 25

	k_H 1.mole ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹		k_D 1.mole ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹	$\frac{k_H}{k_D}$
$C_6H_5CHOHCF_3$	7.5	$C_6H_5CDOHCF_3$	0.47	16.0
p- $CH_3C_6H_4CHOHCF_3$	8.4	p- $CH_3C_6H_4CDOHCF_3$	0.52	16.1
m- $BrC_6H_4CHOHCF_3$	7.6	m- $BrC_6H_4CDOHCF_3$	0.47	16.2

² R. Stewart, J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 79, 3057 (1957)

The magnitude of the isotope effect³ can be explained on either of the following grounds. Either the reaction is a complex one involving consecutive dependent steps such that the overall isotope effect is a cumulative one or the reaction is occurring with loss of the bending modes of the carbon-hydrogen bond in the transition state in addition to the loss of the stretching mode.

The acidity of these alcohols ($pK_a = 11.9, 12.0$ and 11.5 for I, II and III) is such that they exist largely as their anions under the oxidation conditions. A transfer of hydride ion from the alkoxide ion to Mn(VII), favoured for the analogous benzhydrol system,² is difficult to reconcile with the relative indifference of the reaction rate to nuclear substitution. A more complete discussion of the mechanism will be published later.

³ K.B. Wiberg, Chem.Rev. 55, 713 (1955).