

REGIOSELECTIVE ALKYLATION OF DIANIONS OF CYCLIC 1,3-DIKETONES VIA THEIR MONO-DIMETHYLHYDRAZONES. SYNTHESIS OF C-4 SUBSTITUTED CYCLIC 1,3-DIKETONES

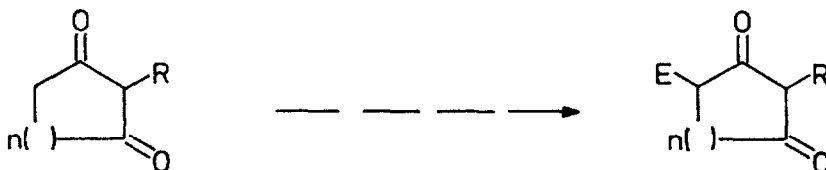
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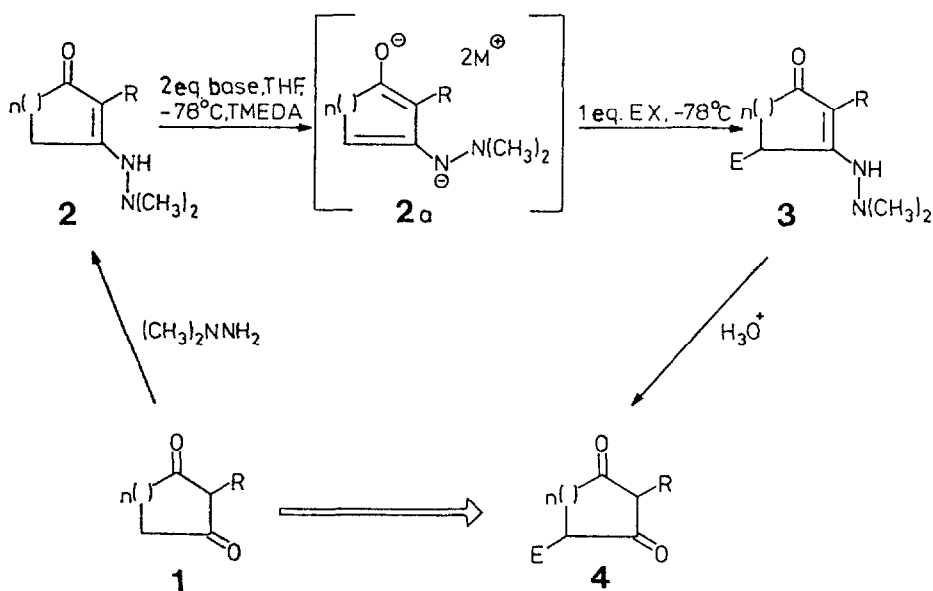
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Summary: Cyclic 1,3-diketones are transformed into the corresponding mono-dimethylhydrazones, which can be alkylated regioselectively at C-4 via dianions with various alkyl halides.

In view of the great importance of cyclic 1,3-diketones as starting materials in natural product synthesis, there is still a need for new generally applicable, regio- and stereoselective methods to functionalize these compounds. Cyclic 1,3-diketones, their enamines and enolethers are valuable intermediates in the construction of specifically substituted derivatives. Alkylation of the kinetic lithium enolates of enol ethers of symmetrical cyclic 1,3-diketones gave the C-6 substituted derivatives in high yields¹⁻³). In contrast the alkylation and aldol condensation of lithium enolates of enaminketones takes place at C-4⁴⁻¹⁰). In this work, a versatile preparation of C-4 substituted cyclic 1,3-diketones via their dimetalated mono-dimethylhydrazones¹¹) (mono-alkylation of dianions) has been investigated.



As is depicted in the scheme, cyclic 1.3-diketones **1** are transformed into their corresponding dimethylhydrazones **2**^{12,13}, which according to the spectroscopic data (ir, nmr) exist as their tautomeric enehydrazinones **2**. Dimetalation with bases, such as *n*-BuLi or KDA in THF in the presence of TMEDA (1-4 equ.) at -78°C ¹⁴, followed by treatment with various alkyl halides (1 equivalent) at -78°C yields after quenching with saturated ammonium-chloride solution at -78°C and purification by column chromatography (silica gel, ethylacetate-hexane 1:1) the C-4 substituted products **3a-h** in 56-65 % yield.



Scheme

As shown in the scheme, the double metalation reactions presumably involve the regioselective trapping of the azaenolate **2a** at the position 4 and then protonation at position 2 (for instance, ^1H nmr spectrum of **3d** showed a doublet at δ 1.38 for the methyl protons, a singlet at δ 5.10 for the vinyl proton and a singlet at δ 6.20 for the N-H proton). After hydrolysis of the enehydrazinones **3a-h** with 6N HCl in methylene chloride (refluxing for 2h, during which time the reaction was monitored by TLC) yields the C-4 substituted cyclic 1.3-diketones **4a-h** in 59-65% yield (Table).

Table: C-4 substituted hydrazones 3 and diketones 4 .

n	R	E	hydrazones yield %	ketones ¹⁵⁾	Yield %	
1	H	CH ₃	<u>3a</u>	57	<u>4a</u>	59
1	CH ₃	CH ₃	<u>3b</u>	56	<u>4b</u>	61
1	H	C ₂ H ₅	<u>3c</u>	59	<u>4c</u>	58
2	H	CH ₃	<u>3d</u>	62	<u>4d</u>	60
2	H	C ₂ H ₅	<u>3e</u>	61	<u>4e</u>	63
2	CH ₃	CH ₃	<u>3f</u>	65	<u>4f</u>	65
2	CH ₃	CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	<u>3g</u>	57	<u>4g</u>	63
2 ^{a)}	H	CH ₃	<u>3h</u>	59	<u>4h</u>	61

a) 5,5-Dimethyl-cyclohexane-1.3-dione (dimedone) was used as starting material,

The spectroscopic data (ir, nmr, ms) and elementary analyses of all new compounds are in agreement with the structures given.

In conclusion, the efficient and overall highly regioselective alkylation of cyclic 1.3-diketones 1 to 4-substituted derivatives 4 described here, offers a new entry to these compounds, which are important starting materials in natural product synthesis.

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