Formation of β -Hydroxyketones from α , β -Epoxyketones by Photoinduced Single Electron Transfer Reactions

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Abstract Irradiation of α , β -epoxyketones in acetonitrile at 254 nm in the presence of triethylamine afforded B-hydroxyketones in good to moderate yields

Since the discovery of β -diketone formation by irradiation of α -epoxyketones ¹, extensive studies showed that more than one photochemical process can occur depending on the substitution and on the nature of the reactive excited states ² While β -diketones are formed predominantly by rupture of the C_O-O bond from a singlet $n\pi^*$ excited state, α -diketones are the major products when the C_B-O bond is cleaved or when
there is an aryl group in the β -position ³ Epimerized epoxyketones ^{4,5}, as well as fragmentation cycloaddition products 7.8 are isolated when the carbon- carbon bond α to the carbonyl is cleaved (Norrish type I) The C_{α} -C_B bond cleavage produces a carbonyl yhde intermediate that can be trapped with appropriate olefins 9° (Scheme 1)

Many of the factors directing the course of the photolysis remain unclear today, although it appears that epimerization and ylide formation occur preferentially from the triplet excited state of the α -epoxyketones

It has been shown recently that C_0 -O bonds of chalcone epoxides can be cleaved selectively by

pyrihum salt sensitized photoreactions ¹⁰ This leads to β -ketoaldehydes when CH₂Cl₂ is used as solvent and to methanol adducts when the reaction is run in methanol. Similarly and in the dark, cerium(IV) salts catalyze methanol-adduct formation from the chalcone epoxide 10 (Scheme 2)

Alternatively selective C_{α}-O bond cleavage occurs when the α , β -epoxyketones are irradiated or heated with azoisobutyrominle in the presence of tributylun hydride in benzene 11 (Scheme 3)

In connection with our studies 12 on the chemistry of radical-amons produced photochemically by induced electron transfer onto carbonyl compounds from triethylamine, we envisaged that the irradiation of α , β -epoxyketones under these conditions might cause selective C_{α}-O bond cleavage Protonation and hydrogen atom abstraction by the radical-anion intermediate would lead to the formation of P-hydroxyketones

Results

The epoxyketones l-6 were prepared from the correspondmg unsaturated ketones usmg a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and sodium hydroxide in methanol 13 The irradiation (low pressure mercury lamps, 254 nm, m quartz vessel) of l-6 were performed m acetomtnle solutions contammg 5 equivalents of tnethylamme

The results of the reactions are summarized in Table I

The only product isolated after one hour of irradiation of 1 was the hydroxyketone 7 ¹⁴ (45 % yield, 50 % conversion) Prolonged irradiation of the solution resulted in the decomposition of the photoproduct 7 and led to a complex mixture which could not be analyzed The irradiation of isophorone oxide 2 produced 3,4,4-mmethyl-3-hydroxycyclohexanone 8 wnh a yield of 62 % when the conversion of 2 1s 80% The photolysls of 3 m the presence of methylamme allowed the Isolation of the hydroxyketone 9 with a yield of 65 % After one hour of irradiation of 4, in the presence of triethylamine, a 56 % conversion rate was observed and 10 is formed in 68 % yield The photoreduction of the *trans*-chalcone epoxide 6 gave a single

Table I Photoreduction of $1-6$ $(3x10^{-2} M)$ in CH₃CN (25 °C)

product isolated by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on silica gel, and identified as the hydroxyketone 13 $(42\%$ yield for a 80 % conversion of the starting product) On longer irradiation, decomposition of the hydroxyketones occurred Irradiation of 5 under the standard conditions led to a mixture of two hydroxyketones **11 and 12** m a ratto 1 2 8 which could be separated by preparahve TLC on silica gel The relative configuration of the two isomers was established by ¹H NMR spectroscopy In compound 12, the proton H-C(2) at 3 9 ppm showed coupling constants of 10.0 Hz , 10 0 Hz and 4 5 Hz which are consistent with a *trans* configuration for compound 12 This product is obtained with a yield of 52 % For compound 11, proton H-C(2) resonates at 4 2 ppm and the value of the couplmg constants of 2 0 Hz, 4 0 Hz and 9 0 Hz, indicated that 11 had a cis configuration This product was isolated with a yield of 18 % The photoreduction of the trans-chalcone epoxide 6 gave a single product isolated by preparative thin layer chromatography (42 % yield, 88 % conversion) Decomposition of the hydroxyketone 13 was observed for longer irradiation times

Discussion

When 1 is irradiated in the presence of triethylamine almost all the light is absorbed by the ketone $1 (A_1/A_{Ef3N} = 2 46, [1] = 3x10^{-2} M$, $[Et_3N] = 0.175 M$, $\epsilon_{254} [1] = 41 \epsilon_{254} [Et_3N] = 3 26$) and a fortiori for the epoxychalcone 6 where the ratio $A_0/A_{Ei3N} = 1121$ (ϵ_{254} [6] = 21333)

When epoxychalcone 6 was irradiated without any tertiary amine, the diketone was observed as the major product coming from an excited triplet state 1.15 When the irradiation of the same epoxychalcone 6 was performed in the presence of 5 equivalents of triethylamine, the diketone was no longer observed and the. only product isolated was the hydroxyketone 13 This result mhcates that a single electron transfer occurs from methylamme to 6 The abtity to transfer an electron to or from an excited molecule can be estunated by using the Rehm-Weller equation 16 , which gives the free enthalpy of the process, according to electrochermical parameters and the excited state energy For an aliphatic ketones [E(A/A \overline{T}) = -2 4 V/ECS = -55 3 kcal mol⁻¹] ¹', the electron transfer from triplet $[E_T = 79-82$ kcal mol⁻¹] ¹⁸ as well as singlet excited ketone $[E_s \sim 88$ kcal mol⁻¹] ¹⁷ is a favored process [$\Delta G < 0$] when triethylamine is used as an electron donor $(E(D^{\dagger}/D)) = 0.78$ V/ECS = 17.9 kcal mol⁻¹]¹⁹ For an aromatic ketone $(E(A/A^T) = 1.85$ V/ECS = 42.6 kcal mol⁻¹] ²⁰ the singlet excited state is estimated to E_s = 78 7 kcal mol⁻¹ and the triplet to E_T = 74 kcal $mol⁻¹$ ²⁰ is also a favored process

Cohen and coworkers have carried out extensive investigations on the photoreduction of aromatic ketones by amines $2¹$ They showed that initial electron transfer to generate a radical ion pair is followed by proton transfer to give a ketyl radical and an α -aminoalkyl radical when tertiary amines are used This radical pair can undergo back electron transfer and proton transfer to regenerate starting materials in competition with radical combination, dimerization of ketyl radicals and reaction of the α -aminoketyl radicals with ground-state ketone to give an imine and another ketyl radical (Scheme I)

In the case of epoxyketones, the formation of the hydroxyketones can be interpreted m terms of single electron transfer between the triethylamme and the ketone chromophore This leads to ketyl radical A which undergoes epoxide ring opening into radical amon \underline{B} or \underline{C} These two latter species might be in fact two limiting structures of the same intermediate (single minimum vs double minimum energy hypersurface) Proton transfer from Et₃N? to C gives the radical intermediates $D + E$ which exchange an hydrogen atom and afford the intermediates $\underline{F} + \underline{G}$ Alternatively, radical \underline{E} could abstract an hydrogen atom from Et₃N to generate Q and the dlethylammoethyl radical Q In this latter case, a tennmahon phase could also imply a

dismutation of D into triethylamme and E

The photoreductive ring opening of the α -epoxyketones is an efficient and general reaction The advantage of our conditions is that the reactions are carried out in very mild and homogeneous conditions without any problem concerning the reproducibility, and we can obtain β -hydroxyketones very easily

Experimental Section

General

All experiments were run under an argon atmosphere ${}^{1}H$ NMR and ${}^{13}C$ NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AC 300 instrument at 300 MHz and 75 MHz respectively, in CDCl₃, employing Me_aS₁ as an internal standard IR spectra were obtained as solutions in CHCl $_3$, on a SP 3-300 Pye-Unicam spectrophotometer U V spectra were taken on a Beckman Spectrophotometer Mass Spectra were run on a Kratos M 50 spectrometer at 70 eV at the ICSN/CNRS of Gif-sur-Yvette Preparative TLC was conducted on Merck silica Kieselgel 60, $PF_{254+266}$ and flash chromatography was accomplished with Merck silica 0 043-O 063 mm

Preparative irradiations were conducted in a merry-go-round type system equipped with 12 low-pressure mercury Phlhps TUV15 lamps (254 nm), 10 mm o d quartz tubes were used The solutions were degassed by bubbling argon for 15 min Solvents such as ether and THF were distilled from sodium benzophenone Acetonitrile and triethylamine were distilled from CaH₂

Preparation of epoxyketones

A typical experiment is described To a well-stirred MeOH (5 ml) solution of enone (3 5 mmoles)

cooled in a ice bath was added dropwise a mixture of H₂O₂ 30 % (2 4 ml) and a solution 6 N NaOH (0 4 ml) in methanol (4 ml) The mixture was stirred for 2 hours at 0° C, and then 1 hour at room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (100 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3x100 ml) The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated Purification of the crude matenal by flash chromatography afforded pure products

Irradtatwn of epoxykztones with methylamme

A solution of epoxyketone in dry acetonitrile $(3x10^{-2}$ M) was deoxygenated by argon bubbling Truethylamme (5 eq) was added, and the solution was irradiated at 254 nm. Acetonitrile and triethylamme were distilled off, and the crude product was punified by preparative TLC or by flash chromatography The reaction can be carried out on a 1 or 2 g scale

4,4-Dimethyl-2,3-oxabicyclot4.l.Olheptanone (1)

IR (CHCls) 1710, 1474, 1413 , 1249, 1020,856 cm- 1 *'H NMR* (CDCls) 1 10 (s, 3H) , 120 (s, 8H) , 1 30-1 40 (m, 1H) , 1 80-2 00 (m, 1H) , 2 10-2 30 (m, 1H) , 2 30-2 50 (m, 1H) , 3 20 (d, J = Hz, 1H) 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) 22 57, 27 14, 29 59, 30 46, 32 87, 55 58, 59 99, 63 78, 160 07, 205 80 *MS* m/e = 140 (20 %), 99 (100 %) *UV* (CH₃CN) ϵ_{295} ^{max} = 287, ϵ_{254} = 41, ϵ_{198} ^{max} = 2091.

4,4-Dimethyl-3-hydroxycyclohexanone (7)

IR (CHCl₃) 3510, 1711, 1453, 1262, 1050 cm⁻¹ ^{*IHNMR* (CDCl₃) 1 10 (s, 3H), 1 15 (s, 3H),} $140-160$ (m, 1H), $180-190$ (m, 1H), 220 (br s 1H); $230-250$ (m, 1H), $260-270$ (m, 1H), 370 (dd, $J =$ 4 2 Hz, J = 7 5 Hz, 1H) ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃) 21 06, 26 04, 34 14, 34 63, 37 70, 46 37, 200 8 MS m/e = 142 (52 %) , 124 (100 %) *Mlcroanalysrs* Calculated C 67 57, H 9 92, found C 67 53 , H 9 88

3,5,5-Trimethyl-2,3-oxoxabicyclo[4.l.O]heptanone (2)

IR ((CHCl₃) 1750 , 1405 1250 , 1195 , 1025 , 800 cm⁻¹ ^{*IHNMR* (CDCl₃) 0 95 (s, 3H) , 1 15 (s,} 3H) **,** 160-l 90 (m, 2H) ,2 10 (d, J = 15 Hz, **1H)** ,2 75 (d, J = 15 Hz, iH) 3 10 (s, 1H) "C *NMR* (CDCls) 23 98 , 27 79 , 30 77 , 36 14 , 4270 , 61 39 , 64 33 , 208 17 *MS m/e =* 154 (29 %) , 138 (100 %) *W* (CH_3CN) ϵ_{295} ^{max} = 295, ϵ_{254} = 54, ϵ_{198} ^{max} = 1050

3,5,5-Trimethyl-3-hydroxycyciohexanone (8)

MP 105 °C *IR* (CHCl₃) 3448, 1711, 908 cm⁻¹ ^{*IH NMR* (CDCl₃) 1 12 (s, 3H), 1 25 (s, 3H),} 1 60 (br,s, 1H) , 1 75 (m, 2H) , 2 25 (s, 2H) , 2 40 (s, 2H) ¹³C *NMR* (CDCl₃) 28 31 , 32 30 , 33 00 , 35 42, 49 88 , 53 77 , 53 90 , 74 73 , 211 04 *Microanalysis* Calculated C 74 96, H 8 38 , found C 75 01, H 8 41

3-Methylbicyclo[3.1.O]hexanone (3)

IR (CHCl₃) 1750, 1405, 1210, 1050, 800 cm⁻¹ *¹H NMR* (CDCl₃) 1 50 (s, 3H), 185-2 50 (m, 4H) 3 10 (s, 1H) ¹³C *NMR* (CDCl₃) 17 76, 27 56, 32 71, 61 06, 65 72, 210 66 *MS* m/e = 112 (10 %), 57 (100 %) *UV* (CH₃CN) $\epsilon_{290} = 256$, $\epsilon_{254} = 85$, $\epsilon_{195} = 1860$

3-hydroxy-3-methylcyclopentanone (9)

IR (CHC&) 3520 , **1740** , **1260 cm-'** *'H NMR* (CDCI,) 150 (s, 3H) , 190-2 60 (m, 7H) 13C *NMR (CDCl,) 27 76,36 74,36 75* ,53 *05* ,75 *89,218 36 MS m/e =* 114 (27 %) ,96 (100 %)

Trans-1,2-epoxy-7,7-ethylenedioxy-6-methylbicyclo^[4,4]. Oldecan-3-one (4)

MP = 135 "C *IR* (CHCls) 1710, 1570, 1550, 1260, 1240, 1170, 1130, 1070 cm-' *'H NMR* $(CDCl_3)$ 1 20 (s, 3H) , 1 40-2 40 (m, 10H) , 3 00 (s, 1H) , 3 70-4 00 (m, 4H) ¹³C *NMR* (CDCl₃) 19 97, 2145,2520,2938,2999,3432;6303,6304,6525,11339,16413,19998 MSm/e=238(2%), 99 (100 %) U V (CH₃CN) : ϵ_{330} ^{max} = 45, ϵ_{254} = 50, ϵ_{224} ^{max} = 432

Trans-1-hydroxy-7,7-ethylenedioxy-6-methylbicyclo[4.4.0]decan-3-one (10)

IR (CHCl₃) 3520, 1701, 1468, 1250, 1150, 1120, 1070, 950 cm⁻¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 1 20 (s, 3H), 1 40-2 80 (m, 13H), 3 80-4 20 (m, 1H) ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃) \cdot 16 16; 27 42; 28 04, 32 59, 35 69, 44 25, 50 66, 64 00, 64.94, 76 00, 114 02, 198 87 *MS* m/e = 240 (30 %), 99 (100 %) Microanalysis Calculated C 64 97, H 8 38, found C 64 01, H 8 41

1-Acetyl-1,2-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]cycloheptane (5)

 IR (CHCl₂) \cdot 1710, 1435; 1355, 1173, 1138, 856; 770 cm⁻¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₂) \cdot 1 20-2 60 (m, 8H), 2 50 (s, 3H), 3 40 (dd, J = 3 Hz, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H) ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 18.66, 19 17, 21 92, 24 14, 56 77, 62 80, 140 70 MS m/e = 140 (13 %), 43 (100 %) U V (CH₃CN) ϵ_{290} ^{max} = 205, ϵ_{254} = 47, ϵ_{230} ^{max} = 2057

Cis-1-acetyl-2-hydroxycyclohexane (11)

 IR (CHCl₃) 3410, 1703, 1450, 1356, 1066 cm⁻¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 1 20-2 60 (m, H), 2 20 (s, 3H) , 4 20 (ddd, J = 2 0 Hz, J 4 0 Hz, J = 9 0 Hz, 1H) ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 19 73, 23 25, 25 30, 28 73, 31 84, 53 88, 66 19, 190 61 *MS* m/e = 142 (35 %), 71 (100 %).

Trans-acetyl-1.2-hydroxycyclohexane (12)

IR (CHCl₃) . 3415, 1698, 1450, 1356, 1070, 973 cm⁻¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 1 00-2 40 (m, 10H), 2 20 (s, 3H), 3 80 (ddd, J = 10 0 Hz, J = 10 0 Hz, J = 4 5 HZ, 1H) ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 19 70, 24 38, 25 68, 25 39, 27 90, 33 61, 58 89, 70 68, 190 61 *MS* m/e = 142 (20 %), 43 (100 %)

Trans-epoxychalcone (6)

 IR (CHCl₃) 1688, 1600, 1580, 1450, 1420, 1300, 1240, 900 cm⁻¹ 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) 2 00 (d, J= 1 8 Hz, 1H), 2 30 (d, J = 1 8 Hz, 1H), 5 20-6 20 (m, 10H) ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 59 03, 60 59, 125 49, 127 99, 128 10, 128 42, 128 52, 128 70, 129 79, 129 81, 133 32; 133 66, 135 07, 135 15, 192 73 MS me = 224 (30 %), 77 (100 %) U V (CH₃CN ϵ_{320} ^{max} = 75, ϵ_{254} = 21333, ϵ_{246} ^{max} = 23578, ϵ_{190} ^{max} = 37052

1,3-Diphenyl-1-hydroxypropanone (13)

 IR (CHCl₃) 3510, 1680, 1450, 754, 700 cm⁻¹ 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) 3 30-3 40 (m, 2H), 5 30 (dd, J = 7 Hz, J = 5 5 Hz, 1H), 7 00-8 00 (m, 10H) ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 47 33, 69 98, 125 70, 127 38, 127 61, 128 10, 128 50, 128 52, 128 63, 128 65, 133 58, 136 53, 200 08 *MS* m/e = 226 (46 %), 105 (100 %)

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\Delta G = 23.06 \text{ (E}_{D/Dt} - E_{A/A} - \frac{e_0^2}{\epsilon_x}) - \Delta E_{oo} , \quad \frac{e_0^2}{\epsilon_x} = 0.06 \text{ in acetonitrile}
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