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Oxidation of Some Organic Diols with Trialkylammonium Fluorochromates(VI), $R_3NH[CrO_3F]$, ($R = \text{CH}_3$, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ and $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$) at Room Temperature and Under Microwave Condition

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Abstract. A mild and efficient method for the mono-oxidation of diols to the corresponding hydroxyaldehydes with trialkylammonium fluorochromates(VI), $R_3NH[CrO_3F]$ ($R = \text{CH}_3$, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ and $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$), in solution at room temperature, and in solution under microwave irradiation, is reported. The easy procedure, simple work-up, short reaction times, and excellent yields are advantages of these reagents. Keywords: Trialkylammonium fluorochromates(VI); oxidants; oxidation; diols; microwave; room temperature.

Introduction

The oxidation of organic substrates in aprotic solvents, under mild and neutral conditions is important in modern organic synthesis, therefore, the search for new oxidizing agents is of interest to synthetic organic chemists. Many such reagents have been developed in recent years with some success [1]. In particular, there is continued interest in the development of new chromium(VI) reagents for the effective and selective oxidation of organic substrates, under mild conditions. Of the large number of mild chromium based oxidizing agents available, many prove impractical when the reactions are performed on a large (mol) scale [2], although in recent years, significant improvements have been achieved by using new oxidizing agents [3-11]. Examples are: pyridinium chlorochromate [12], pyridinium dichromate [13], pyridinium fluorochromate [14], 2, 2’-bipyridinium chlorochromate [15], tripropylammonium fluorochromate [16] and tetramethylammonium fluorochromate (TMAFC) [17]. On the other hand in recent years organic reactions assisted by microwave and room temperature irradiation have gained special attention. The chief features of the microwave reactions are the enhanced selectivity, much improved reaction rates, milder reaction conditions and formation of cleaner products. These reactions are especially appealing as they can be carried out in open vessels thus avoiding the risk of development of high pressures in addition to the associated case of manipulation. In continuation of our ongoing work on development of highly efficient oxidation protocols, we observed that the oxidation of diols with Trialkylammonium fluorochromates(VI) $R_3NH[CrO_3F]$, ($R = \text{CH}_3$, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ and $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$) (TriRAFC) under microwave and room temperature irradiation could be carried out much more quickly than using conventional techniques.

Results and Discussion

The results obtained with trialkylammonium fluorochromates(VI) $R_3NH[CrO_3F]$, ($R = \text{CH}_3$, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7$ and $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$) (TriRAFC) at room temperature and under microwave irradiation are very satisfactory and show that these new reagents as valuable additions to the existing oxidation agents. TriRAFC in dichloromethane under microwave and room temperature radiation oxidized diols in high yields (Tables 1 and 2).

Oxidations may also occur using only trialkylammonium fluorochromates in the absence of microwave irradiation but considerable improvements of both the yields and the corresponding reaction times are observed in the presence of the irradiation.

Neither carboxylic acids overoxidation products nor other by-products are formed upon oxidation of diols via trialkylammonium fluorochromates. Functional groups such as methyl that attached are inert to these reagents.

Trialkylammonium fluorochromates(VI) are easily prepared in high yields from chromium(VI) oxide, related trialkylamine and aqueous hydrofluoric acid (HF) in a convenient molar ratio. The bright orange crystalline reagents can be stored in polyethylene containers for long periods without decomposition. The IR spectra of the reagents are similar to that of other halochromates [18]. Moreover, during the reac-
tion, the colour of the oxidants change from orange to brown, thus providing a visual means for ascertaining the progress of the oxidations.

If the oxidizing agents are used in different ratio respect to the substrate (1:1.5, 1:2, 1:3) it is possible to achieve the oxidation of the two hydroxy groups but it is impossible to achieve the conversion of primary diols to diacids under more drastic reaction conditions such as more time of heating of microwave irradiations or employing of higher boiling point solvent.

Trialkylammonium fluorochromates(VI) are soluble in water, dimethyl formamide, acetonitrile and acetone; these are less soluble in dichloromethane and only sparingly soluble in benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform and hexane.

**Experimental**

CrO$_3$ (Merck, P.A.) was used without further purification. Solvents were purified by standard methods. Infrared spectra were recorded as KBr disks on a Shimadzu model 420 spectrophotometer. The UV/Visible measurements were made on an Uvicron model 922 spectrometer. Proton, $^{13}$C, $^{19}$F NMR spectra were all consistent with the TriRAFC structure. The above procedure can be scaled up to larger quantities, if desired. The pH of 0.01 M solution of TriRAFC in water has been used.

**General Procedure for Synthesis of Trialkylammonium Fluorochromate (TriRAFC), $R_3NH[CrO_3F]$**

**General Method**

A 1 g (10 mmol) sample of chromium (VI) oxide, CrO$_3$, and 0.9 mL (20 mmol) of 40% hydrofluoric acid were added to 20 mL of water in a 100 mL polyethylene beaker with stirring. After 7 min the homogeneous solution was cooled to ca.-2 °C. To the resultant orange solution, trialkylamine (10 mmol) was added drop wise with stirring over a period of 0.5 h and stirring was continued for 0.5 h at 2 °C. The precipitated clear-orange liquid was isolated by filtration on a polyethylene funnel, washed with petroleum ether (3 × 60 ml) and dried in vacuum for 2 h at room temperature. The data of the reagents are:

**Trimethylammonium Fluorochromate (TriMAFC), (CH$_3$)$_3$NH[CrO$_3$F]**

Yield: (86%); mp 126 °C, C$_4$H$_9$CrFNO$_3$; C, 20.11; H, 5.58; N, 7.82. Found: C, 20.08; H, 5.64; N, 7.69. IR (KBr): 912 cm$^{-1}$ v$_1$(A$_1$) or v(CrO$_3$), 636 cm$^{-1}$ v$_2$(A$_1$) or v(Cr-F), 950 cm$^{-1}$ v$_3$(A$_1$) or v(Cr-F), Electronic absorption at 2206 cm$^{-1}$, corresponded to $^1$A$_2$$\rightarrow$$^1$E ($\epsilon = 174$ M$^{-1}$cm$^{-1}$); 28735 m$^{-1}$ to $^1$E$$\rightarrow$$^1$E ($\epsilon = 664$ M$^{-1}$cm$^{-1}$); 36231 cm$^{-1}$ to $^1$A$_2$$\rightarrow$$^1$E ($\epsilon = 1248$ M$^{-1}$cm$^{-1}$).

**Table 1. Oxidation via TriRAFC at room temperature**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substrate</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>R=CH$_3$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
<th>R=C$_2$H$_5$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
<th>R=C$_3$H$_7$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
<th>R=C$_4$H$_9$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 HO-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-OH</td>
<td>HO-CH$_2$-CHO</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>88</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 HO-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-OH</td>
<td>HO-CH$_3$-CH$_2$-CHO</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>86</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 HO-(CH$_3$)$_2$-OH</td>
<td>HO-(CH$_2$)$_2$-CHO</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 CH$_3$-CH(OH)-CH(OH)-CH$_3$</td>
<td>CH$_3$-CH(OH)-CO-CH$_3$</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>87</td>
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**Table 2. Oxidation via TriRAFC under Microwave irradiation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substrate</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>R=CH$_3$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
<th>R=C$_2$H$_5$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
<th>R=C$_3$H$_7$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
<th>R=C$_4$H$_9$</th>
<th>Time(min)</th>
<th>Yield(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 HO-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-OH</td>
<td>HO-CH$_2$-CHO</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 HO-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-OH</td>
<td>HO-CH$_3$-CH$_2$-CHO</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 HO-(CH$_3$)$_2$-OH</td>
<td>HO-(CH$_2$)$_2$-CHO</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 CH$_3$-CH(OH)-CH(OH)-CH$_3$</td>
<td>CH$_3$-CH(OH)-CO-CH$_3$</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
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Triethylammonium Fluorochromate (TriEAFC),
\((C_3H_9)_3NH[CrO_2F]\)

Yield: (88%); mp 132 °C, \(C_3H_9CrFNO_3\): C, 32.57; H, 7.23; N, 5.32. Found: C, 32.08; H, 6.44. IR (KBr): 794 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_1(\text{A}_1)\) or \(v(CrO_3)^{-}\), 648 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_2(\text{A}_1)\) or \(v(Cr-F)\), 949 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_4(E)\) or \(i(CrO_2)\). Electronic absorption at 22321 cm\(^{-1}\), corresponded to \(^{1}A_2\rightarrow^{1}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 177 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)), 28375 m\(^{-1}\) to \(^{1}E\rightarrow^{3}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 507 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)) and 35971 cm\(^{-1}\) to \(^{1}A_1\rightarrow^{1}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 1314 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)). UV/Visible, \(^{13}\)C NMR, \(^{1}H\) NMR and \(^{19}\)F NMR were all consistent with the TriEAFC structure. The above procedure can be scaled up to larger quantities, if desired. The pH of 0.01 M solution of TriEAFC in water was 3.45.

Tripropylammonium Fluorochromate (TriPAFC),
\((C_3H_9)_3NH[CrO_2F]\)

Yield: (98%); mp 142 °C, \(C_3H_9CrFNO_3\): C, 41.06; H, 8.36; N, 5.32. Found: C, 41.22; H, 8.46; N, 5.22. IR (KBr): 904 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_1(\text{A}_1)\) or \(v(CrO_3)^{-}\), 647 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_2(\text{A}_1)\) or \(v(Cr-F)\), 949 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_4(E)\) or \(v(CrO_2)\). Electronic absorption at 22321 cm\(^{-1}\), corresponded to \(^{1}A_2\rightarrow^{1}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 140 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)), 28725 m\(^{-1}\) to \(^{1}E\rightarrow^{3}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 667 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)) and 35971 cm\(^{-1}\) to \(^{1}A_1\rightarrow^{1}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 1287 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)). UV/Visible, \(^{13}\)C NMR, \(^{1}H\) NMR and \(^{19}\)F NMR were all consistent with the TriPAFC structure. The above procedure can be scaled up to larger quantities, if desired. The pH of 0.01 M solution of TriPAFC in water was 3.3.

Tributylammonium Fluorochromate (TriBAFC),
\((C_4H_9)_3NH[CrO_2F]\)

Yield: (84%); mp 134 °C, \(C_4H_9CrFNO_3\): C, 47.21; H, 9.18; N, 5.59. Found: C, 46.92; H, 8.64; N, 5.20. IR (KBr): 914 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_1(\text{A}_1)\) or \(i(CrO_3)\), 634 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_2(\text{A}_1)\) or \(i(Cr-F)\), 950 cm\(^{-1}\) \(v_4(E)\) or \(v(CrO_2)\). Electronic absorption at 22321 cm\(^{-1}\), corresponded to \(^{1}A_2\rightarrow^{1}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 177 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)), 28735 m\(^{-1}\) to \(^{1}E\rightarrow^{3}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 701 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)) and 35971 cm\(^{-1}\) to \(^{1}A_1\rightarrow^{1}E\) (\(\varepsilon = 1314 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\)). UV/Visible, \(^{13}\)C NMR, \(^{1}H\) NMR and \(^{19}\)F NMR were all consistent with the TriBAFC structure. The above procedure can be scaled up to larger quantities. The pH of 0.01 M solution of TriBAFC in water was 3.15.

General procedure for oxidation of diols:

To a stirred suspension of trialkylammonium fluorochromate (1 mmol) in dichloromethane (generally 5.0 mL), a solution of the substrate diol in the minimum amount of dichloromethane was added dropwise, the molar ratio of substrate to the oxidant being 1:1 in. The mixture was refluxed for the time showed in the table. [The completion of the reaction is followed by UV/Visible and TLC using ether/petroleum ether (60/40) as eluant]. The mixture was diluted with ether (1:1 vol/vol) and filtered through a short column of silica gel to give a clear solution. The solution was evaporated and the residual product purified by distillation, recrystallization or column chromatography. The separated compounds characterized and it is found the product in that only one of the hydroxyl groups oxidized is the main product. The progress of the reactions was also monitored and checked by UV/Visible spectrophotometry. The amount of the oxidant during the reaction was measured spectrophotometrically at 363 nm. A very small magnetic stirrer was designed at the cell (10 mm quartz cell) compartment just in the bottom of sample cell in the spectrophotometer to stir up the solution under study in cell. The reaction mixtures remained homogenous in the solvent system used.

Under microwave conditions, all the above experiments were repeated (at 900W), and the mixture was irradiated for the time showed in the Table 2.

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References