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Chemoselective Preparation of 1,1-Diacetates from Aldehydes, Mediated by a Keggin Heteropolyacid Under Solvent Free Conditions at Room Temperature

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Abstract: A simple, general and efficient method has been developed for the conversion of aldehydes to 1,1-diacetates using acetic anhydride, a catalytic amount of non commercial Keggin heteropolyacid (H_6 PAIMo₁₁O₄₀) (1% mol) in solvent free conditions at room temperature. Aromatic and aliphatic, simple and conjugated aldehydes were protected with excellent yields.

Keywords: aldehydes, acylals, 1,1-diacetates, solvent-free, heteropolyacid, Keggin catalyst.

Introduction

Aldehydes are know to react with simple anhydrides to give acylals (1,1-Diacetates) in the presence of acid catalysts. 1,1-Diacetates are synthetically useful for protecting aldehydes owing to their moderate stability in neutral or basic media and their easy formation as well as easy deprotection¹. The 1,1-Diacetates of α , β -unsaturated aldehydes are important starting materials for the synthesis of valuable acetoxy dienes and vinyl acetates for Diels-Alder cicloaddition reactions². They have also been applied as cross linking reagents for

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cellulose in cotton and useful as activators in the composition of bleaching mixtures used for the treatment of wine-stained fabrics³. In addition 1,1-diacetates are useful as substrates in nucleophilic substitution reactions⁴.

1,1-diacetates preparation from aldehydes and acetic anhydride using protonic or Lewis acids as catalysts has been known for a long time. Several catalysts have been employed for this reaction, e.g. sulfuric acid, methanesulfonic, or phosphoric acids⁵, $FeCl_3^{6} PCl_3^{7}$, $InCl_3^{8} Sc(OTf)_3^{9}$, $Cu(OTf)_2^{10}$, $ZrCl_4^{11}$, among others. However, some of these methods are not entirely satisfactory due to their drawbacks, low yield, long reaction time, environmental problems and tedious work-up.

Several catalysts have been used to improve yields, decrease reaction time and eliminate the unfavorable effects for this reaction, e.g. iodine¹², expansive graphite¹³, montmorillonite clay¹⁴, solid superacid as nafion-H¹⁵, tungstosilicic acid and HZSM-5¹⁶, zirconium sulfophenyl phosphonate¹⁷, aluminium dodecatungstophosphate¹⁸, LiClO₄¹⁹, Zn(ClO₄)₂²⁰, 12-molybdophosphoric acid²¹, NaHSO₄²² silica sulfuric acid²³, KHSO₄²⁴ and others.

Heteropolycompounds are useful and versatile to a number of transformations because of their redox and superacidic properties. The Keggin primary structure presents the general formula $[XM_{12}O_{40}]^{(8-n)}$, where M are addenda atoms, X is the heteroatom and *n* is the X valence. The oxygen atoms in this structure fall into four classes of symmetric-equivalent oxygen: X-O_a-(M)₃, M-O_b-M, connecting two M₃O₁₃ units by corner sharing; M-O_c-M, connecting two M₃O₁₃ units by edge sharing and terminal O_d-M.

We have recently applied heteropolyacids with structure type Keggin for performing the tetrahydropyranylation of phenols and alcohols²⁵ and flavones preparation²⁶. On the other hand, a heteropolyacid with a type Wells-Dawson structure was used for performing the tetrahydropyranylation-depyranylation of phenols and alcohols²⁷, coumarins preparation²⁸ and 1,1-diacetates formation and the corresponding deprotection²⁹.

As a part of an ongoing research project to develop environmentally friendly organic reactions, we report here a rapid preparation of 1,1-diacetates of aldehydes using a non commercially Keggin heteropolyacids ($H_6PAlMo_{11}O_{40}$) as catalyst, being tested as a homogeneous catalyst, at room temperature and in solvent free conditions. This Keggin heteropolyacid has been described in a previous paper³⁰.

Experimental

All the products were well previously descript They were characterized by comparison (GLC, TLC, physical constant) with authentic samples prepared by the conventional method, using sulfuric acid as the catalyst as well as ¹H and ¹³C-NMR All the yields were calculated from crystallized products.

Preparations of the catalyst

The following procedure was used for the preparation of the molybdenum-substituted heteropolyacid: a stoichiometric mixture of H_3PO_4 85 % (0,58 g (0,01 mol)), AlCl₃.6H₂O (1,21 g (0,005mol)) and MoO₃ (14,4 g (0,11 mol)) was suspended in 150 ml of distilled water. The mixture was stirred for 6 h at 80 °C. After cooling down to room temperature and removal of insoluble polymolybdates, the heteropolyacid solution was evaporated and dried at 85 °C for 24 h. After that, yellow crystals of $H_6PAIMo_{11}O_{40}$ were obtained FT-IR: The spectrum of bulk $H_6PMo_{11}AIO_{40}$ showed bands at 1064 (P-Oa), 962 (Mo=Od), 869 (Mo-Ob-Mo), 787 (Mo-Oc-Mo), 378 and 342 (bending) cm-1.

General procedure

A mixture of an aldehyde **1** (1 mmol), acetic anhydride (1 ml) and $H_6PAIMo_{11}O_{40}$ (1 % mmol) was stirred at room temperature for 3 h and then ethyl ether (10 ml) was added to the reaction mixture. The resulting solution was successively washed with 1 M NaOH and water, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solution was then concentrated, and when the product was solid, was recrystallized from petroleum ether yielding each of pure 1,1-diacetates. As example, spectroscopic data for the compound **2b** are given:

Compound 2b: White solid: p. f. 80-81°C. IR: 3090, 3016, 2940, 1760, 1753, 1532, 1353, 1218, 1200, 993, 820, 740, 685 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz) 7.28 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz), 2.10 (s, 6H). EIMS: m/z (%) 242 (M⁺, 2), 201 (12), 199 (40), 139 (90), 111 (30), 77 (30) and 43 (100).

Results and Discussion

The protection reaction is showed in Scheme 1, and it was studied using aldehydes **1a-1s** as substrates.

RCHO + Ac₂O
$$\xrightarrow{1\% H_6 PAIMo_{11}O_{40}}$$
 RCH(OAc)₂
rt., 3 h.
1 (a-s) 2 (a-s)

Scheme 1. Preparation of 1,1-diacetates.

The structures of aldehydes, 1,1-diacetates and the obtained results are shown in Table 1.

Benzaldehyde was chosen as the substrate for optimizing the reaction conditions: Temperature, time, concentration of the initial solutions and molar ratio of heteropolyacid to substrate were checked.

Various aldehydes reacted with Ac_2O to afford the corresponding 1,1-diacetates in high yields. Reaction proceeds smoothly in 3 h at room temperature (20 °C). Both electron-releasing and electron-withdrawing substituted aromatic aldehydes were converted to their corresponding 1,1-diacetates in the same conditions; the nature of the substituents seems to have no effects on the reaction.

In the case of aliphatic aldehydes, high yields of products are obtained in the mentioned conditions. Acid-sensitive aldehydes, such as crotonaldehyde, furfural and cinnamaldehyde give very good yields, no decomposition or polimerization were observed Hydroxybenzaldehydes afford the corresponding triacetates in excellent yields.

Nevertheless, 4-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde failed to give the expected 1,1-diacetate even the mixture were being stirred for 16 h. We attempted the reaction of acetone, butanone and acetophenone with acetic anhydride; they have not reacted under the described experimental conditions. Besides, acetylation of a mixture of benzaldehyde and acethophenone gave only the 1,1-diacetate from the aldehyde (Scheme 2).



Entry	Substrate (1)	Product (2)	% Yields 2
а	Сно	OAc	94
b	СІ—СНО	CI-CI-CAc	96
c	СІ	OAc OAc CI	93
d	H ₃ C-CHO	H ₃ C-OAc OAc	93
e	О2N	OAc OAc OAc	90
f	O ₂ N-CHO	O ₂ N-OAc OAc	92
g	СІ		89
h	СНО	ACO OAc	100
i	СНО	OAc	98
j	СНО	OAc OAc OAc	93 ^a

Table 1 Preparation of various 1,1-diacetates 2 from the corresponding aldehydes 1 using $H_6PAlMo_{11}AlO_{40}$ as catalyst

Table 1. Contd...

Entry	Substrate (1)	Product (2)	% Yields 2
j	СНО		93 ^a
k	но	AcO OAc	90 ^a
1	СНО	AcO_OAc	88 ^b
m	СНО	OAc	91
n		H ₂ N OAc	no reaction
0	СНО	OAc	92
р	СНО	OAc	90
q	СНО	OAc	87
r	СНО	OAc	90
S	CHO		93 c

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^a Compound 2j y 2k are the triacetates ^b Reaction time was 4 h.

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Conclusion

We report a new clean, mild and efficient procedure for preparing 1,1-diacetates from aldehydes in the presence of acetic anhydride at room temperature, mediated by a non commercial $H_6PAIMo_{11}O_{40}$, a heteropolyacid with Keggin structure, under solvent free conditions. Some advantages of this procedure are the low cost with green methodology, short reaction time and the easy work up.

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