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### Synthesis of $\beta$ -Oxo Esters from Silyl Enol Ethers and Dichlorobis(phenoxy)methane

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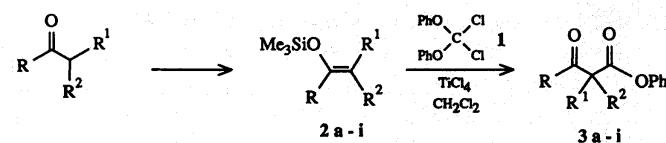
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Received February 2, 1990

**Key Words:** Carboxylation / Aryloxycarbonylation / Siloxyalkenes / Silyl Enol Ethers / Acetals, dichloro /  $\beta$ -Oxo esters

Dichlorobis(phenoxy)methane (**1**) reacts with trimethylsiloxyalkenes in the presence of 1.2 equiv. of  $TiCl_4$  to give  $\beta$ -oxo esters in 44–82% yield. The title compound **1** is thus employed as a  $PhO_2C^\oplus$  equivalent.

Bis(aryloxy)dichloromethanes (e. g. **1**) are readily available by radical-induced chlorination of formaldehyde diaryl acetals<sup>1)</sup>. Like 2,2-dichloro-1,3-benzodioxol, which is used for the electrophilic carboxylation of aromatic compounds<sup>2)</sup> and of alkenes<sup>3)</sup>, they represent  $RO_2C^\oplus$  equivalents and have been employed for the synthesis of  $\beta,\gamma$ -unsaturated esters from allylsilanes<sup>4)</sup>. In this paper we report on the reaction of bis(aryloxy)dichloromethanes with silyl enol ethers under Lewis-acidic conditions yielding  $\beta$ -oxo esters in moderate to good yields. Since silyl enol ethers may regioselectively be synthesized from the corresponding ketones<sup>5)</sup>, the two-step sequence according to eq. (1) represents a useful alternative for the generation of  $\beta$ -oxo esters from ketones, which has previously been carried out under strongly basic conditions using dialkyl carbonates<sup>6)</sup>, dialkyl oxalates<sup>7)</sup>, methyl methoxymagnesium carbonate<sup>8)</sup>, or methyl cyanoformate<sup>9)</sup>.



The experimental conditions of the reaction of **1** with the silyl enol ether **2g** have been optimized. Poor yields of **3g** are obtained, when **1** is treated with **2g** in  $CH_2Cl_2$  in the presence of  $ZnCl_2/Et_2O^{10})$  (1.5 equiv.) or in the presence of 0.1 equiv. of  $TiCl_4$  (<20%). With  $SnCl_4$  (1.3 equiv.) in  $CH_2Cl_2$ , 27% of **3g** is isolated, and an almost quantitative yield of crude **3g** is obtained, when 1.2 equiv. of  $TiCl_4$  is added to a mixture of **1** and **2g** in  $CH_2Cl_2$  at  $-78^\circ C^{11})$ .

Table 1 (entries a–f) shows that silyl enol ethers, generated from saturated ketones, may efficiently be converted into  $\beta$ -oxo esters according to this method. Only one of the possible diastereoisomers is obtained from compounds **2e** and **2f**. Though some of these compounds are enolizable (**3b**–**e**), the NMR spectra, taken immediately after dissolving these compounds in  $CDCl_3$ , indicate the presence of pure keto compounds, and only in the case of **3b**, 10–15% of an enol has been detected. After several days, a ketone-to-enol ratio of 60:40 is observed for **3c**, while the spectra of the other compounds have remained unchanged<sup>12)</sup>.

Table 1. Titanium(IV) chloride promoted reactions of dichlorobis(phenoxy)methane (**1**) with trimethylsiloxyalkenes **2**

Reactants	Products	Yield (%)	IR v(CO) [cm <sup>-1</sup> ]
TMSO		71	1758, 1714
OTMS		81	1764, 1701
OTMS		68	1763, 1696
OTMS		75	1748, 1708
OTMS		54	1772, 1731
OTMS		46	1757, 1708
TMSO		74	1761, 1727
TMSO		44	1755, 1670
TMSO		82	1760, 1738

Examples g–i suggest that **1** may also be used for the carboxylation of silyl enol ethers derived from aldehydes (**2g**), of siloxy dienes (**2h**), and ketene silyl acetals (**2i**), but experiments with 1-(trimethylsiloxy)indene and 1-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,3-butadiene have not been successful.

## Experimental

IR: IR-435 (Shimadzu). — NMR: XL 200 (Varian), internal standard TMS; for spectra of higher order, virtual couplings are listed. — MS: 70-250E (VG-Instruments).

Dichlorobis(phenoxy)methane (**1**) was prepared by chlorination of bis(phenoxy)methane<sup>1)</sup>. The silyl enol ethers **2a–h** were synthesized from the corresponding carbonyl compounds by treatment with  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiCl}$ , NaI, and  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{N}$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  according to the procedures A and D described by Cazeau et al.<sup>13)</sup>. The silylated ketene acetal **2i** is commercially available (Fluka).

**Caution:** Because of the known toxicity of chloro ethers, all operations should be carried out in an efficient hood, and skin contact should be avoided.

**Phenyl 2,2-Dimethyl-3-oxobutyrate (3a).** — *General Procedure:* Compounds **1** (0.80 g, 3.0 mmol) and **2a** (0.52 g, 3.3 mmol) were dissolved in 25 ml of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . A solution of  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol) in 10 ml of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was added dropwise with stirring (ca. 5 min), and the mixture was kept at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . After 10 h, the dark brown solution was washed with cold 3% aqueous HCl to give a colorless mixture. The organic layer was concentrated to yield an oily residue which was dissolved in pentane and repeatedly washed with 5% aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution to remove phenol. After drying with  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and evaporation of pentane, the residue was purified by layer chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ether (95:5)] yielding 0.51 g of product. Distillation [ $73$ – $76^\circ\text{C}$  (bath)/0.1 mbar] afforded 0.44 g (71%) of **3a**. —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.52$  (s, 6 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 7.05–7.40 (m, 5 H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 21.86$  (q, 2- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 25.77 (q, C-4), 56.02 (s, C-2), 121.11 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 126.10 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.49 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.50 (s, C<sub>i</sub>), 172.18 (s, C-1), 205.32 (s, C-3). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 206 (28) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 164 (34), 113 (51), 94 (100), 85 (56), 70 (53), 57 (31), 43 (98).

$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$  (206.2) Calcd. C 69.89 H 6.84  
Found C 69.87 H 6.73

**Phenyl 2-Oxocycloheptanecarboxylate (3b):** A mixture of compounds **1** (0.80 g, 3.0 mmol) and **2b** (0.61 g, 3.3 mmol) was treated with 0.76 g (4.0 mmol) of  $\text{TiCl}_4$  as described before and worked up after 20 h. Layer chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ether (3:1)] afforded 0.62 g of **3b**, which was distilled to yield 0.56 g (81%) of an analytically pure material with bp  $110$ – $115^\circ\text{C}$  (bath)/0.1 mbar. —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.35$ –2.13, 2.17–2.34, 2.47–2.46 (3 m, 10H), 3.84 (dd,  $J = 10.1$  Hz,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 0.9 H, keto tautomer), 7.08–7.48 (m, 5 H), 12.53 (br. s, 0.1 H, enol tautomer). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 24.04$ , 27.47, 28.22, 29.45, 43.29 (5 t, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7), 58.67 (d, C-1), 121.45 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 125.94 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.38 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.57 (s, C<sub>i</sub>), 169.35 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 208.66 (s, C-2); signals for the enol species (<15%):  $\delta = 24.56$ , 24.63, 31.95, 35.61 (t), 101.21 (s), 121.79 (d), 125.74 (d), 129.51 (d), 150.49 (s), 172.12 (s). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 232 (1) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 139 (58), 94 (100).

$\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$  (232.3) Calcd. C 72.39 H 6.94  
Found C 72.20 H 7.02

**Phenyl 2-Oxocyclooctanecarboxylate (3c):** Compound **1** (1.2 g, 4.5 mmol) was treated with **2c** (1.0 g, 5.1 mmol) in the presence of  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (1.1 g, 5.8 mmol) for 18 h to give **3c**. Distillation [ $125$ – $130^\circ\text{C}$  (bath)/0.2 mbar] afforded 0.75 g (68%) of oily **3c** which solidified;

mp  $70$ – $72^\circ\text{C}$  (pentane/ether). —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $40^\circ\text{C}$ ):  $\delta = 1.25$ –2.27, 2.48–2.76 (2 m, 12 H), 3.86 (dd,  $J = 8$  Hz,  $J = 7$  Hz, 1 H), 7.01–7.40 (m, 5 H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 24.49$ , 24.66, 24.74, 27.30, 29.48, 42.36 (6 t, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8), 56.34 (d, C-1), 121.34 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 125.97 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.38 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.45 (s, C<sub>i</sub>), 168.81 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 211.71 (s, C-2); signals for the enol species:  $\delta = 24.06$ , 26.05, 26.54, 28.77, 30.04, 32.59 (6 t, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8), 98.79 (s, C-1), 121.78 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 125.77 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 171.70 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 178.60 (s, C-2). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 246 (1) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 153 (100), 94 (32), 55 (54).

$\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$  (246.3) Calcd. C 73.15 H 7.37  
Found C 73.13 H 7.27

**Phenyl 2-Oxocyclododecanecarboxylate (3d):** Compound **1** (0.80 g, 3.0 mmol) was treated with **2d** (0.84 g, 3.3 mmol) and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.76, 4.0 mmol) for 24 h according to the described procedure. The residue, obtained after evaporation of pentane (0.90 g), was recrystallized from hexane to give 0.67 g (75%) of **3d** with mp  $81$ – $83^\circ\text{C}$ . —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.05$ –2.08, 2.10–2.56, 2.62–2.91 (3 m, 20 H), 3.87 (dd,  $J = 11.0$  Hz,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 1 H), 6.97–7.46 (m, 5 H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 22.01$ , 22.31, 22.83, 23.85, 24.07 (high intensity), 25.26, 25.58, 26.77, 38.38, (9 t, C-3–C-12), 57.57 (d, C-1), 121.24 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 126.07 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.46 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.39 (s, C<sub>i</sub>), 168.51 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 206.06 (s, C-2). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 302 (1) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 209 (100), 94 (23), 77 (23), 55 (27), 41 (21).

$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3$  (302.4) Calcd. C 75.46 H 8.67  
Found C 75.37 H 8.57

**Phenyl Camphor-3-carboxylate (3e):** was synthesized by reaction of **1** (1.2 g, 4.5 mmol) with **2e** (1.1 g, 4.9 mmol) in the presence of  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (1.1 g, 5.8 mmol) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. Chromatographic purification of the product [silica gel, hexane/ether (4:1)] gave 0.65 g (54%) of **3e** which was recrystallized from hexane; mp  $69$ – $70^\circ\text{C}$ . —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 0.94$ , 0.98, 1.06 (3 s, 9 H), 1.48–2.07 (m, 4 H), 2.60 (br. t,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1 H), 3.58 (dd,  $J = 1.9$  Hz,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 1 H), 7.00–7.43 (m, 5 H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 9.55$  (q, 1- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 18.79, 19.54 (2 q, 7- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 22.52 (t, C-5), 29.40 (t, C-6), 45.88 (d, C-4), 47.23 (s, C-7), 55.50 (d, C-3), 58.59 (s, C-1), 121.46 (d, C<sub>i</sub>), 126.01 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.41 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.33 (s, C<sub>i</sub>), 168.17 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 210.81 (s, C-2). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 272 (5) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 179 (100), 151 (45), 123 (18), 94 (20), 83 (37), 55 (17), 41 (24).

$\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$  (272.3) Calcd. C 74.97 H 7.40  
Found C 74.95 H 7.46

**Phenyl 1-Methyl-4-(1-methylvinyl)-2-oxocyclohexanecarboxylate (3f):** was prepared by treatment of **1** (0.80 g, 3.0 mmol) with **2f** (0.74 g, 3.3 mmol), and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 17 h. Purification of the product by column chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ether (95:5)] gave 0.45 g of **3f** which was further purified by distillation yielding 0.37 g (46%) of product with bp  $130$  to  $135^\circ\text{C}/0.15$  mbar. —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.53$  (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.74 to 2.05 (m, superimposed by br. s at 1.77, 7 H), 2.42–2.58 (m, 1 H), 2.63 (m, 2 H), 4.76, 4.86 (2 br. s, 2 H), 7.05–7.45 (m, 5 H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 20.48$ , 21.20 (2 q, 1- $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{}$ ), 25.40 (t, C-5), 33.68 (t, C-6), 43.35 (t, C-3), 44.22 (d, C-4), 57.19 (s, C-1), 111.27 (t,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{}$ ), 121.40 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 125.96 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.42 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 145.48 (s,  $\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$ ), 150.73 (s, C<sub>i</sub>), 171.92 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 208.34 (s, C-2). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 272 (12) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 179 (83), 151 (15), 123 (30), 109 (51), 107 (55), 97 (100), 94 (41), 81 (51), 69 (38), 67 (30), 55 (72), 41 (60). —  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$  (272.3) Calcd. C 74.97 H 7.40  
Found C 74.92 H 7.37

**Phenyl 2,2-Dimethyl-3-oxopropanoate (3g):** The crude material obtained from **1** (1.2 g, 4.5 mmol), **2g** (0.79 g, 5.5 mmol), and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (1.1 g, 5.8 mmol) according to the general procedure was purified

by column chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ether (4:1)] to yield 0.75 g of **3g**. Distillation [84–88°C (bath)/0.4 mbar] afforded 0.63 g (74%) of analytically pure **3g**. —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.50$  (s, 6H), 7.05–7.41 (m, 5H), 9.80 (s, 1H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 19.71$  (q, 2- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 54.03 (s, C-2), 121.24 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 126.21 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.51 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.32 (s,  $\text{C}_i$ ), 171.30 (s, C-1), 198.50 (d, C-3). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 192 (12) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 164 (25), 99 (49), 94 (100), 71 (47), 70 (43), 43 (82).

$\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$  (192.2) Calcd. C 68.74 H 6.29  
Found C 68.70 H 6.33

*Phenyl (5,5-Dimethyl-3-oxo-1-cyclohexen-1-ylacetate) (3h):* Compound **1** (0.80 g, 3.0 mmol) was treated with **2h** (0.70 g, 3.3 mmol) and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol) for 18 h to give crude **3h** which was purified by column chromatography [silica gel, ether/hexane (2:1)] and distillation [145–150°C (bath)/0.08 mbar] yielding 0.40 g of product. Recrystallization from hexane afforded 0.34 g (44%) of **3h** with mp 68–69°C. —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.09$  (s, 6H), 2.28 (s, 2H), 2.38 (br, s, 2H), 3.47 (br, s, 2H), 6.09 (br, s, 1H), 7.05–7.50 (m, 5H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 28.13$  (q, 5- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 33.73 (s, C-5), 43.12, 43.56 (2 t, C-6,  $\text{O}_2\text{CCH}_2$ ), 50.85 (t, C-4), 126.26 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 126.13 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 128.17 (d, C-2), 129.49 (d,  $\text{C}_m$ ), 150.29 (s,  $\text{C}_i$ ), 154.01 (s, C-1), 167.86 (s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 199.39 (s, C-3). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 258 (4) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 165 (100), 109 (12), 108 (25), 94 (22), 77 (7), 67 (10), 53 (10).

$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$  (258.3) Calcd. C 74.40 H 7.02  
Found C 74.31 H 7.10

*Methyl Phenyl (2,2-Dimethylmalonate) (3i):* The product generated from **1** (0.80 g, 3.0 mmol) and **2i** (0.58 g, 3.3 mmol) in the presence of  $\text{TiCl}_4$  (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol) within 14 h was purified by layer chromatography [silica gel, hexane/ether (95:5)] to yield 0.60 g of **3i**. Distillation [74–78°C (bath)/0.1 mbar] afforded 0.54 g (82%) of analytically pure **3i**. —  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.59$  (s, 6H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 7.04–7.45 (m, 5H). —  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 22.75$  (q, 2- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 50.08 (s, C-2), 52.69 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 121.21 (d,  $\text{C}_o$ ), 125.99 (d,  $\text{C}_p$ ), 129.43 (d,  $\text{C}_i$ ), 150.67 (s,  $\text{C}_i$ ), 171.36, 172.99 (2 s,  $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ph}$ ). — MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 222 (30) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 129 (97), 101 (100), 94 (80), 73 (45), 41 (27).

$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$  (222.2) Calcd. C 64.85 H 6.35  
Found C 64.48 H 6.57

## CAS Registry Numbers

- 1: 4885-03-4 / 2a: 17510-44-0 / 2b: 22081-48-7 / 2c: 50338-42-6 / 2d: 51584-36-2 / 2e: 56613-17-3 / 2f: 72311-10-5 / 2g: 6651-34-9 / 2h: 80239-27-6 / 2i: 31469-15-5 / 3a: 103439-34-5 / 3b: 126256-23-3 / 3c: 126256-24-4 / 3d: 126256-25-5 / 3e: 126256-26-6 / 3f: 126256-27-7 / 3g: 89635-72-3 / 3h: 126256-28-8 / 3i: 126256-29-9

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