SYNLETT Spotlight 477

This feature focuses on a reagent chosen by a postgraduate, highlighting the uses and preparation of the reagent in current research.

Molybdenum(VI) Dichloride Dioxide

Compiled by Hari Krishna Kadam

Hari K. Kadam (born in Goa, India) obtained his M.Sc. (organic chemistry) with a gold medal in 2009 from Goa University and simultaneously cleared the CSIR-UGC NET JRF exam. Currently, he is working toward his Ph.D. in the field of synthetic organic chemistry under the supervision of Professor Santosh G. Tilve at Goa University. His research work is focussed on exploring new routes for the synthesis of nitrogen-containing bioactive organic compounds.

Department of Chemistry, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa 403206, India
E-mail: harikadam05@gmail.com

Introduction

Although molybdenum(VI) dichloride dioxide (MoO₂Cl₂) has been known for a long time,¹ it is still exploited as a catalyst for versatile organic transformations.² It is an oxo-transfer catalyst, displaying its ability to promote oxidation as well as reduction reactions. In many reactions, it is also used as a Lewis acid.

Abstracts

(A) Using catalytic MoO₂Cl₂(dmf)₂, arylindazoles are accessible by reductive cyclisation of o-nitrobenzylidine amines with triphenylphosphate in refluxing toluene or under microwave conditions. Similarly, o-nitrostyrenes and nitrobiphenyls gave indoles and carbazoles, respectively. Benzothiazines, benzoxazines, and tetrahydroquinolines were obtained by the reductive cyclisation of o-nitroalkenes via an Alder-ene reaction.

(B) Selective deoxygenation of sulfoxides to sulfides was carried out with triphenylphosphate or boranes using MoO₂Cl₂(dmf)₂ or MoO₂Cl₂. Catalytic MoO₂Cl₂(dmf)₂ and pinacol as a benign reducing agent were used for the reduction of sulfoxides to sulfides. The same system was explored for the reduction of nitroaromatic compounds to anilines.

(C) Aromatic and aliphatic esters were reduced to alcohols using silanes and catalytic MoO₂Cl₂. Imines were efficiently reduced to amines using the same system.

(D) Using MoO₂Cl₂, dimethylphenylsilanes were added to aldehydes and ketones to give dimethylphenylsilyl ethers.

Preparation

MoO₂Cl₂ is a pale-yellow solid, highly reactive and corrosive. It is commercially available¹ and can be prepared by a method reported by Colton and Tomkins.² MoO₂Cl₂L₂ (where L = dmf, dmso, and thf) are more frequently used because of their thermal and chemical stability. The preparation of MoO₂Cl₂(dmf)₂ is simple, efficient, and almost quantitative using readily available Na₂MoO₄·2H₂O."
(E) MoO$_2$Cl$_2$(dmos) is a mild oxidation catalyst and oxidizes primary benzylic alcohols to aldehydes and secondary alcohols to ketones using oxygen.\textsuperscript{10}

(F) Sulfides were selectively oxidized to sulfoxides and sulfones using MoO$_2$Cl$_2$(dmos) as a catalyst and hydrogen peroxide in varying concentrations. Similarly, aliphatic and aromatic thiols were oxidized to disulfides.\textsuperscript{11}

(G) Epoxidation of various internal and terminal alkenes was achieved with high selectivity and good yields using an oxo-Mo catalyst. Challenging substrates like styrenes were selectively and efficiently epoxidized.\textsuperscript{12}

(H) Thioglycosylation of O-acetylated glycosides with functionalized thiols led to exclusive 1,2-trans-thioglycoside diastereomers using catalytic MoO$_2$Cl$_2$ catalyst. 1,2-trans-Ketoesters were synthesized by MoO$_2$Cl$_2$-catalyzed condensation of ethyl diazocatec and aldehydes. Acetylation, pivalation, and benzoylation of alcohols, amines, and thiols was achieved by nucleophilic acyl substitution using amphoteric MoO$_2$Cl$_2$ catalyst.\textsuperscript{13}

(I) Carbamates were prepared from primary, secondary, or tertiary alcohols and aliphatic or aromatic isocyanates using low concentrations of MoO$_2$Cl$_2$(dmos) catalyst. Optically active substrates were also explored with retention of configuration.\textsuperscript{14}

(J) Methanalysis of epoxides to $\beta$-alkoxy alcohols is carried out by MoO$_2$Cl$_2$-catalyzed ring opening. Similarly, acetylation or conversion of epoxides into $\alpha$-alkoxyketones was also achieved.\textsuperscript{15}

References

(3) CAS No. 13637-68-8.