

# SYNLETT Spotlight 41

## Manganese(III) acetate

Compiled by Grégory Bar

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

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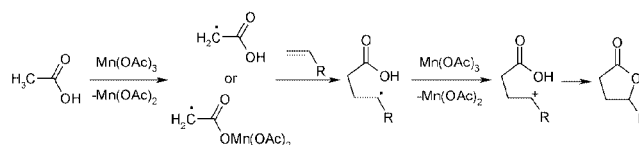


### Introduction

Metal-mediated oxidative radical cyclisations have become a very important method in synthetic chemistry over the last 40 years.<sup>1</sup> Of particular importance is the use of  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3$  which acts as a one-electron oxidant. In 1968, it was shown to oxidise acetic acid leading to  $\gamma$ -lactones in the presence of alkenes.<sup>2,3</sup> The mechanism of these reactions is not fully understood but is thought to proceed as shown in Scheme 1. Since then, a variety of alternative substrates to acetic acid, especially enolisable 1,3-dicarbonyls, have been successfully employed in related reactions, particularly cyclisations, to form 5- and 6-membered rings.<sup>4</sup> The solvent of choice is acetic acid; other

solvents (EtOH,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , DMSO) tend to give lower yields.<sup>4</sup>

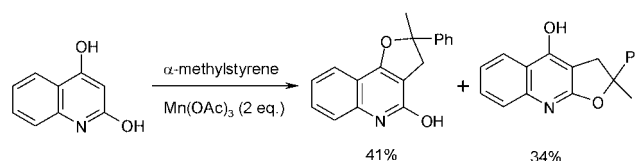
As  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3$  is troublesome to prepare and highly deliquescent, the dihydrate form of the complex  $[\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  is generally used and this is commercially available.<sup>5,6</sup>



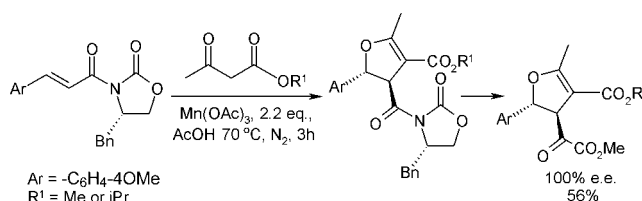
Scheme 1

### Abstracts

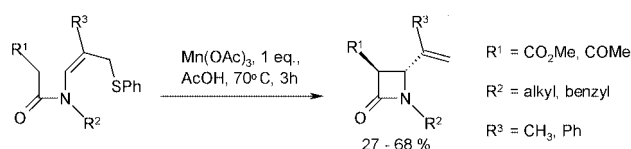
$\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3$  is generally used to form radicals at the  $\alpha$ -position of carbonyls and particularly 1,3-dicarbonyls (e.g. 1,3-diketones,  $\beta$ -keto-esters and  $\beta$ -keto-amides), which can react with electron-rich alkenes. Acidic compounds such as quinolinediols, undergo fast enolisation leading to rapid oxidation forming angular and linear tricycles in good yields.<sup>7</sup>



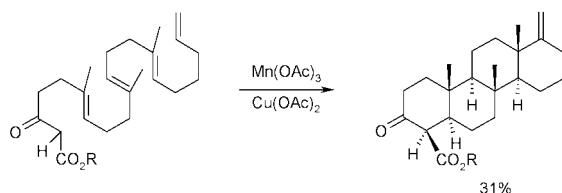
Stereoselective transformations are possible and the use of oxazolidinone chiral auxiliaries can lead to dihydrotetrahydrofurans with excellent ee.<sup>8</sup>



The formation of 4- as well 5- and 6-membered rings is possible as exemplified by the formation of *trans*- $\beta$ -lactams in yields ranging from 27% to 68%<sup>9</sup> using a radical cyclisation-fragmentation strategy.



Tetracyclisations can also be carried out; the copper(II) acetate facilitates the oxidation of the primary radical, leading to the steroid analogue as a single isomer (there is a possibility of 64).<sup>10</sup>



Although manganese(III) acetate is inexpensive its use on an industrial scale is problematic because 2 equivalents of the reagent is usually required to bring about the desired transformation and this generates considerable amounts of metal wastes. Chemical<sup>11</sup> and electrochemical<sup>12</sup> meth-

ods have been investigated to regenerate the manganese(III) in situ.

Related compounds including  $\text{Mn}(\text{pic})_3$  in DMF [manganese(III)picolinate]<sup>13</sup> and  $\text{Mn}(\text{acac})_3$  [manganese(III) acetoacetate]<sup>14</sup> are capable of initiating similar reactions.

## References

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