Preparation of trichloroacetoamidoxime in aqueous media and application in one pot synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles

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Abstract
Oxadiazoles are heterocyclic compounds with a variety application in many pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals products. We reported here the convenient synthesis of 3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazoles from trichloroacetoamidoxime and RC(O)Cl (R= methyl ethyl, propyl, Ph, CH₂Cl, CHCl₂, CCl₃) by one pot reaction.

Keywords: Azoles, 1,2,4-oxadiazoles, heterocycles, O-acylation

Introduction

Azoles and derivatives have a long history in medicinal chemistry. In particular, 1,2,4-oxadiazoles represent a class of heterocyclic with a wide variety of biological activities, especially as antiinflammatory, agrochemical and antifungal activities.¹-³ Biologically relevant compounds containing the 1,2,4-oxadiazole moiety also include HIV integrase inhibitors,⁴ antituberculostatic agents⁵ and antikinetoplastid agents.⁶ In particular, the introduction of halogens and halogenated groups into organic molecules often confers significant changes in their chemical, physical and pharmacological properties.⁷-¹⁰

Several methods have been reported in the literature for the synthesis of oxadiazoles.¹¹-¹⁵ The major synthetic route to obtain oxadiazoles is the reaction of amidoximes and acyl chloride promoted by either heat or by bases, such NaH, NaOEt or pyridine. Usually this synthesis involves a two step procedure, the first one is the formation of O-acyl derivative and the second one and intramolecular cyclization with hard conditions (thionyl chloride, phosphorus oxychloride or acid sulfuric).
The common protocol for the preparation of precursor amidoximes includes reactions of hydroxylamines with nitriles, or thioamides. In recent years, we have studied the preparation of halogen-containing building blocks and have demonstrated their usefulness as precursor on synthesis of five and six members rings. In according with our program research in organic chemistry, in this work, we chose explore the versatility of the trichloroacetoamidoxime as halogen-precursor in a one-pot conversion with acyl chlorides to the corresponding 3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazoles with good yields.

**Results and Discussion**

The use of water as a solvent in organic synthesis has been extensively studied, with application in the tetrahydropyranylation of alcohols, Diels-Alder reactions, Claisen Rearrangement, Michael additions, Barbier-Grignard reactions, Reformatsky reactions, enaminations and oxidation and reduction with the research of reaction in water.

The precursor trichloroacetoamidoxime could be easily synthesized by reaction of trichloroacetonitrile and hydroxylamine hydrochloride in water at room temperature for 3 hours in 90% yield (Scheme 1). This yield was better than the literature (64%).

![Scheme 1](image)

In preliminary experiments, we have observed that the reaction between amidoxime with trichloroacetyl chloride was solvent and temperature dependent. When the reaction was carried out at low boiling point solvent such as ethyl ether, chloroform or dichloromethane, the starting materials were recovered and we did not observe the formation of the product (entry 1, 2 and 3 - Table 1). In our studies, we found that the toluene was the appropriated solvent for these reactions giving the best results. The increased of temperature raise the formation of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles in excellent yield (entry 5 and 6, Table 1). The reaction was monitored by TLC (thin layer chromatography). The important particularity of this reaction process is the work-up, in which we observed that the use of successive treatment with solution of Na₂CO₃ gave the products without purifications.
Table 1. Study of conditions to synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles 3a-g

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Acyl chloride</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Temp (ºC)</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cl₃COC₂Cl₂e</td>
<td>Ethyl ether</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Cl₃C⁺N⁻O⁺Cl₃</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cl₃COC₂Cl₂e</td>
<td>CH₂Cl₂</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Cl₃C⁺N⁻O⁺Cl₃</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cl₃COC₂Cl₂e</td>
<td>CHCl₃</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Cl₃C⁺N⁻O⁺Cl₃</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cl₃COC₂Cl₂e</td>
<td>Solvent free</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Cl₃C⁺N⁻O⁺Cl₃</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cl₃COC₂Cl₂e</td>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3e</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cl₃COC₂Cl₂e</td>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Cl₃C⁺N⁻O⁺Cl₃</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a*reaction time 20 h.

The 5-substituted-3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazoles 3a-g were synthesized by treatment of trichloroacetamidoxime 1 with acyl chlorides 2a-g using toluene for 20 hours at 100ºC (Scheme 2). The compounds 3a-g were obtained in good yields (60–90%). The scope and generality of this process is illustrated by a series of seven oxadiazoles and the results are presented in Table 2.

Scheme 2
Table 2. Synthesis of 3 trichloromethyl-1, 2, 4 oxadiazoles 3a-g

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acyl chloride</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>mp</th>
<th>bp</th>
<th>Yield (%)^a</th>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="2a" /></td>
<td>55</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="2b" /></td>
<td>oil</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="2c" /></td>
<td>oil</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="2e" /></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
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<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="2g" /></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^a yield of isolated compound

The products were identified concerning both analytical and spectral data (\( ^1 \)H NMR and \( ^{13} \)C NMR) of all compounds are in full agreement with the proposed structure.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we have described the facile preparation of trichloroacetoamidoxime 1 in aqueous media, and its application in an one-pot approach to the synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles in good yields. This method works well with a variety of acyl chlorides.
Experimental Section

**General.** Starting trichloroacetoamidoxime 1 was prepared from our procedure. All solvents and reagents were obtained from Aldrich and used without further purification. The data of NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 400 (1H at 400.13 MHz and for 13C at 100.63 MHz) spectrometer, 5 mm sample tubes, 298 K, digital resolution of ± 0.01 ppm, 0.5 M in CDCl3, containing TMS as internal standard. Mass spectra were registered in HP 6890 GC connected to HP 5973 MSD and interfaced by a Pentium PC. The CG was equipped with a split-splitless injector, autosampler, cross-linked HP-5 capillary column (30m, 0.32 mm of internal diameter), and helium was used as the carrier gas.

**General procedures. Trichloroacetoamidoxime (1)**
A mixture of hydroxylamine hydrochloride 2.36g (3.5 mmol) and NaOH 1.36g (3.5mmol) in water was added trichloroacetonitrile 1.7 mL (1.7 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. For the compound 1 a solid was observed. The product was isolated by filtered, dried in a vacuum and recrystallized in gradient hexane/acetate (3:1).

**Synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles 3a-g**
A mixture of acyl chloride 2a-g (6 mmol) in toluene was added dropwise in a solution of the trichloroacetoamidoxime 1 (3 mmol) in toluene at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at reflux. After the time the solvent was remove and CH2Cl2 was added, the organic solution was washed (twice in water), (twice in solution Na2CO3), and (once in water). The organic layer was dried (Na2SO4) and the solvent removed under pressure. Finally, the 1, 2, 4-oxadiazoles 3a-g were obtained in good yields.

3-Trichloromethyl-5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3a).
C4H3Cl3N2O; 201.5; mp 54°C; bp 203.7°C; yield (61%); 1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3): δ (ppm) 2.70 (3H, s, CH3); 13C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3): δ (ppm) 179.2, 170.9; 99.96 (CCl3); 12.4 (CH3); MS CG-MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z 200 (M+-1, 1), 169 (11.4), 167(61.9) 165(100), 131(9.5), 129(9.5), 126(15.2), 124(19);

3-Trichloromethyl-5-ethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3b).
C5H5Cl3N2O; 215.5; oil; yield (60%); 1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3): δ (ppm) 3.03 (2H, q, CH2); 1.50 (3H, t, CH3); 13C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3): δ(ppm) 170.8, 183.3; 109.5 (CCl 3); 20.5 (CH2); 10.4 (CH3); MS CG-MS (EI 70 eV): m/z 214 (M+-1, 1), 182.9(10), 180.9(60.7), 179.9(6), 178.9(100),126(24), 124(38);

3-Trichloromethyl-5-propyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3c).
C6H7Cl3N2O; 229.5; oil; yield (74%); 1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3): δ (ppm) 2.48 (2H, t, CH2); 1.59 (2H, m, CH2); 0.85 (3H, t, CH3); 13C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3): δ (ppm) 171.1, 178.8; 104.8 (CCl3); 29.7 (CH2); 20.6 (CH2); 13.3 (CH3); 227 (M+2, 11); 213 (1.2); 199(5.7); 185(6); 171(6); 143(17); 129(8.7); 101(8); 97(9.4); 88(6.8); 87(70); 84(5); 83(12); 81(5); 75(17); 74(100); 71(7); 69(17); 67(5); 59(8); 57(16); 43(27)

3-Trichloromethyl-5-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3d)
C9H5Cl3N2O; 263.5; mp 65 and bp 106 °C; yield (88%); 1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3): δ (ppm) 8.2 and 7.5 (m, Ph); MS CG-MS (EI 70 eV):
m/z (%) 263, 262, 264 (9)[M+] 229(63), 228(9.5), 227(100), 126(22), 124(33), 105(25), 103(35), 77(74), 76(21), 50(21), 51(43)

3,5-Bis-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3e). C₄Cl₆N₂O; 305; bp 250 °C; yield (90%); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 190.5, 195.5; 103.8 (CCl₃); 101.6 (CCl₃); MS CG-MS (EI 70 eV): m/z (%) 304 (M⁺-1, 1), 274.5(4), 273(20), 271(62.8), 268.9(100), 267(64.8), 206(3.8), 203.9(7.6), 202(4.8), 128.9(2.9), 126(4.8), 124(4.8), 119(11.4), 116.9(13.3), 100(4.8), 98(6.7), 94(2.8), 84(6.7), 82(9.5), 73(1.9), 47(4.8).

5-Dichloromethyl-3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3f). C₄HCl₅N₂O; 270.5; bp 253 °C; yield (71%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 6.8 (H, s, CH); MS CG-MS (EI 70 eV): m/z (%) 270 (M⁺, 10), 272.8(21), 271.8(5), 269.9(5), 268.8(100), 266.9(65), 236.9(5), 234.9(8), 232.9(6), 205.8(4), 203.85(8.5), 201.8(6.5), 126(7), 124(11), 121(6), 119(19), 117(23), 110(11), 108(14), 83(15), 81.9(24), 49(6), 47(17);

5-Chloromethyl-3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3g). C₄H₂Cl₄N₂O; 235; bp 242; yield (70%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 4,7 (2H, s, CH₂) ); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 176.8, 171.3; 109.5 (CCl₃); 33.06 (CH₂); MS CG-MS (EI 70 eV): m/z (%) 237 (M⁺+2, 45), 235(100), 233.9(5), 232.9(89), 126(8), 124(13), 118(4), 116.9(5), 82.9(12), 81.9(5);

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to FAPERGS, CNPq (Project 476769/2004-3) and CAPES for financial support. Authors also thank to Professor Claudio M.P Pereira (UFPel) and Professor Wilson Cunico (UFPel) for the valuable contributions on the preparation of this manuscript.

References


