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Synthesis in water under Focussed Microwave Irradiation: a Rapid and Convenient Synthesis of Polyaminopolymethylenephosphonic acids

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Abstract: Polyamines in presence of phosphorus acid and formaldehyde in water under focussed microwave irradiation conduct to the rapid synthesis of polyaminomethylenephosphonic acids.

Keywords: Polyphosphonic acid, microwave irradiation, water solvent.

INTRODUCTION

Aminophosphonic acids constitute an important class of biologically active compounds, and their synthesis has been a focus of considerable attention in synthetic organic chemistry as well as in medicinal chemistry [1]. These acids are considered to be structural analogues of the corresponding amino acids: thus acting as competitive inhibitors they can act as false substrates during the course of amino acid metabolism. Aminophosphonic acids are also very good ligands for the coordination of metal ions so they can be used for the extraction of metals [2] such as iron, copper, nickel and uranium in hydrometallurgy. These acids form also complexes [3] on the surface of metal such as iron and are consequently are very good as anti-corrosion agents [4]. These acids are also precursor of organic materials [5] or hybrid materials of metal organic frameworks (MOF) [6]. The phosphonic acids can be also useful for the modification of inorganic surfaces or for grafting organic compounds on inorganic surfaces [7]. They can be used for making supported catalysts [8] or modified inorganic nanoparticles [9].

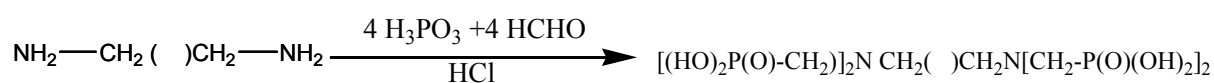
RESULT AND DISCUSSION



The aminophosphonic acids are generally obtained by hydrolysis of esters via Kabachnik-Fields reaction [10]. This reaction can be activated by microwave irradiation [11]; nevertheless there are often secondary reactions during the hydrolysis. The synthesis of Irani-Moedritzer [12] is less general than the Kabachnik-Fields reaction, but it has the advantage of obtaining the aminophosphonic acid without a step of hydrolysis. The Irani-Moedritzer reaction times are in general long, so the use of microwave for assisting the reaction is of interest. We describe this reaction in aqueous medium under microwave irradiation with an aqueous solution of formaldehyde in acidic aqueous medium without organic solvent. Water is an inexpensive, non flammable, non toxic solvent and has the advantage of warming up quickly under microwave irradiations. Carrying out reactions using microwave heating, as opposed to conventional heating, has the major advantage of shorter reaction times because of the rapid heating [13].

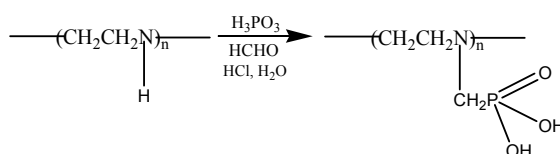
The Irani-Modzdrizer reaction can be compared to a Mannich reaction and takes place by the addition of the phosphorous acid on iminium salt formed by reaction of formaldehyde with the amine in acidic medium.

General procedures for the synthesis of various polyaminopolymethylene phosphonic acids consist to refluxing polyaminoalkyls with phosphorus acid and formaldehyde in HCl media (Schemes 1).



Scheme 1

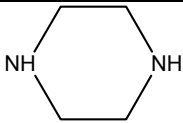
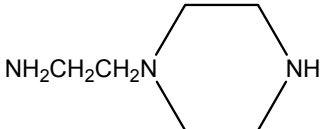
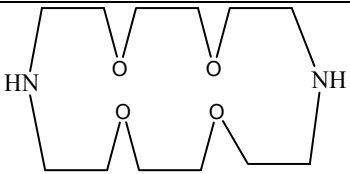
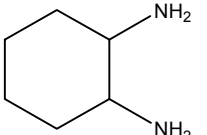
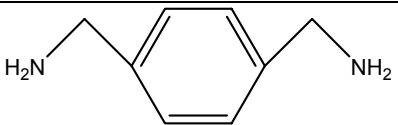
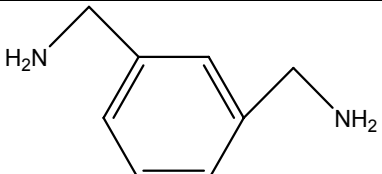
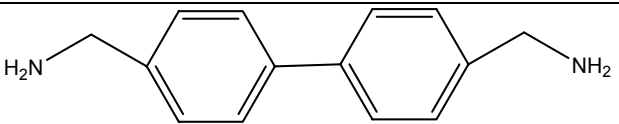
With the polyethylenimine, we have obtained a polymeric aminophosphonic acid (entry 18) useful as resin for extraction of metal ions (Scheme 2).



Scheme 2

The reactions were carried out in tubular reactor fitted with an effective cooling which permits to reflux solution without the formaldehyde escaping from the reaction media. This reactor was irradiated in a resonance mono-mode cavity Synthewave 402. Although the reaction also take place under multimode irradiation of a commercial furnace, the yields obtained are worse (conditions and yield see Table 1).

Table 1

entry	Amine	Yield (%)	W/min microwave
1	$\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$	60	240/10
2	$\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$	63	240/10
3	$\text{NH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NH}_2$	64	240/12
4	$\text{NH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{NH}_2$	68	240/15
5	$\text{NH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{NH}_2$	91	240/20
6	$\text{NH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_8\text{NH}_2$	64	240/15
7	$\text{NH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_{12}\text{NH}_2$	93	240/30
8		82	240/15
9		80	240/15
10		70	240/16
11		71	240/12
12	$\text{H}_2\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CHNH}_2$	43	240/28
13		93	240/12
14		46	240/12
15		68	210/8
16	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$	80	240/15
17	$\text{CH}_3\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$	74	240/12
18	$(\text{CH}_2\text{CH})_n$ NH_2 n= 50 to 500	90	175/8

After cooling and evaporation of the half volume of water, aminophosphonic acid crystallised as a white solid. It was then recrystallised in a water-isopropanol mixture. The activation by microwaves allows better yields than a conventional heating.

The aminophosphonic acids were identified by their ^1H , ^{13}C , ^{31}P NMR spectra and by microanalysis.

CONCLUSION

The one-pot synthesis of polyaminophosphonic acids under microwave irradiation is general, simple, fast, efficient and allows obtaining interesting aminophosphonic acids useful as biologically active molecules, coordinating agents of metals or precursors of materials (organic or MOF).

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