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Oxydation of heterocycle, an advance for efficient synthesis of active molecules

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Graphical Abstract





Abstract

Heterocycles play an important role in therapeutic chemistry. Currently, more than 85% of all biologically active molecules contain at least one heterocycle. The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) database reveals that 14% of active ingredients containing a nitrogen heterocycle are pyridines, mainly mono- or di-substituted. Therefore, the study of mono-, di-, and tri-substituted pyridine's reactivity is important in the development of new biologically active molecules. In this study, we focused on a particular family of pyridines: 2-pyridinecarboxaldehydes. The latter are often obtained by oxidation of the corresponding 2-methylpyridines. However, these reactions usually require the use of dangerous reagents such as oxygen, or expensive catalysts.

Oxidation reactions are very common in organic chemistry, but aldehydes can be susceptible to overoxidation to carboxylic acids. It is therefore essential to develop and optimise oxidation conditions to limit this undesirable subproduct. In our laboratory, we have developed a method for oxidation of various 2-methylpyridines to their 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde analogues, whereas limiting overoxidation. This method led to better yields than those described in the literature, while simplify the operating mode.

Keywords: Oxydation ; Pyridine ; Heterocycles ; Organic chemistry

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Introduction

FDA data base : 30% of active ingredients containing a nitrogen heterocycle, are pyridines.



→ It's very important to have an easy acces to this skeleton





Choice of oxydant



Oxydant	% Substrate	% Aldehyde	% Acid
SeO ₂	5	36	59
CrO ₃	100	0	0
MnO ₂	100	0	0



Choice of temperature



Temperature	% Substrate	% Aldehyde	% Acid
Reflux	5	36	59
R.T	71	14	15



Choice of solvant



Solvant	% Substrate	% Aldehyde	% Acid	
1,4-Dioxane	5	36	59	
DMF	0	0	0	
Degradation				



Optimisation of equivalent number



Equivalent	Isolated yield %	
5	30	
0.77	46	





Conclusions



- □ Best yield improvement : 7 43%
- □ Less good yield improvement : 7 12%
- Increased stability of the aldehyde during the reaction
- Excess of substrate recyclable

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