

SHORT
COMMUNICATIONSDedicated to Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences
N.S. Zefirov on his 80th anniversaryReaction of 3-Methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonates
with Benzimidazole and 2-Aminobenzimidazole

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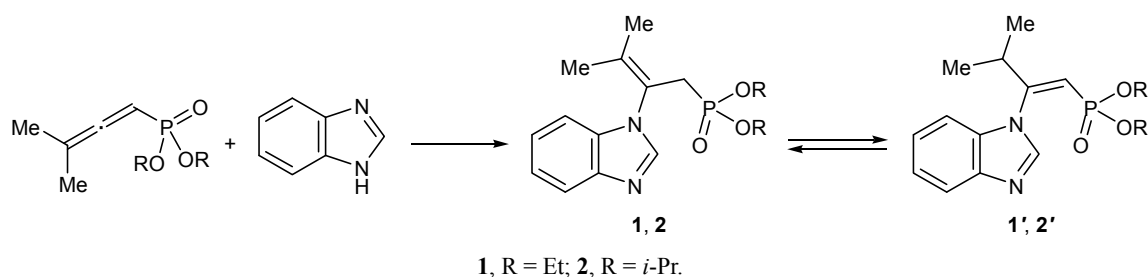
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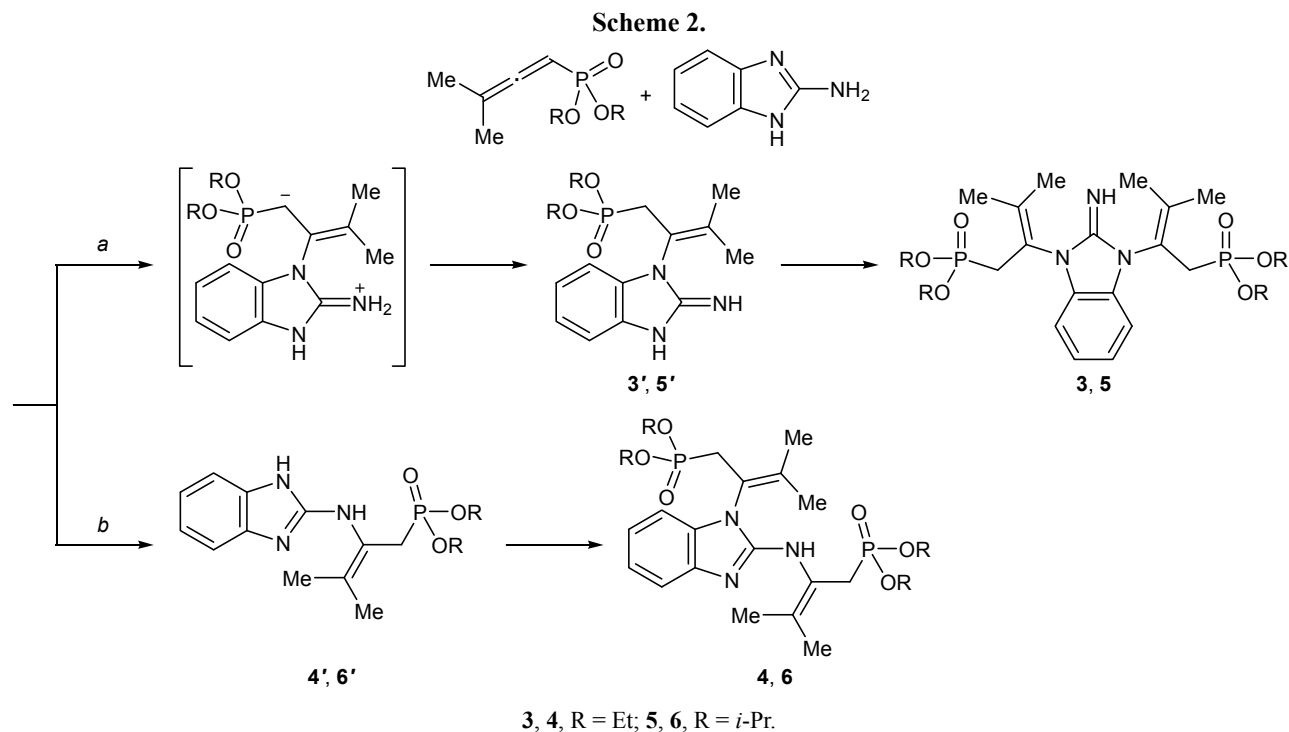
We previously showed that reactions of allenyl- and vinylphosphonates with imidazole involve addition of the imidazole nitrogen atom to the β -carbon atom of the unsaturated substrate with formation of alkenyl- and alkylphosphonates functionalized with nitrogen-containing pharmacophoric fragment [1]. The addition products were found to exhibit a strong bactericidal activity against such pathogenic microorganisms as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

While continuing studies in this line we examined the reaction of diethyl and diisopropyl 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonates with benzimidazole and 2-aminobenzimidazole with a view to obtaining new biologically active compounds. An equimolar mixture of diethyl 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonate and benzimidazole was heated for 15 h at 70–75°C, and the upper oily layer was separated and repeatedly washed with hexane until constant n_D^{20} value. We thus isolated compound **1** as a yellow thick oily material. The minor bottom layer was washed in succession with hexane and diethyl ether to isolate unreacted benzimidazole as

colorless crystals with mp 169–170°C (published data [2]: mp 171–173°C). The ^{31}P NMR spectrum of **1** contained only one signal at δ_P 24.6 ppm, indicating formation of a single addition product. The following signals were observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum of **1**, δ , ppm: 1.07 t (3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz), 1.31 t (3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ Hz), 1.49 d (3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{C}$, $^5J_{\text{PH}} = 6.0$ Hz), 2.00 d (3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{C}$, $^5J_{\text{PH}} = 4.5$ Hz), 2.98 d.d (1H, PCH_2 , $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 20.7$, $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 15.7$ Hz), 3.18 d.d (1H, PCH_2 , $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 20.7$, $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 15.7$ Hz), 3.98 m (4H, OCH_2), 7.30–7.98 m (4H, H_{arom}). The presence in the ^1H NMR spectrum of doublets of doublets at δ 2.98 and 3.18 ppm with a ^1H – ^{31}P coupling constant $^2J_{\text{PH}}$ of 20.7 Hz, which are typical of methylene group attached to phosphorus, indicated that the benzimidazole nitrogen atom added to the β -carbon atom of 3-methylbuta-1,2-dienylphosphonate with formation of diethyl 2-(1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbut-2-en-1-ylphosphonate (**1**). Yield 67%, $n_D^{20} = 1.5292$. Found, %: C 60.01; H 6.97. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{P}$. Calculated, %: C 59.62; H 7.14. Theoretically possible isomerization of adduct **1** into diethyl 2-(1*H*-benz-

Scheme 1.





imidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbut-1-en-1-ylphosphonate (**1'**) (Scheme 1) can be ruled out taking into account the absence of signals assignable to PCH= and (CH₃)₂CH protons and nonequivalence of methyl groups at the double C=C bond.

Likewise, benzimidazole reacted with diisopropyl 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonate to produce diisopropyl 2-(1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbut-2-en-1-ylphosphonate (**2**). Yield 68%, $n_D^{20} = 1.5321$. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 1.15 d and 1.17 d [3H each, (CH₃)₂CHO, ³J_{HH} = 6.1 Hz], 1.49 d (3H, CH₃C=, ⁵J_{PH} = 6.0 Hz), 2.02 d (3H, CH₃C=, ⁵J_{PH} = 4.6 Hz), 2.80 d.d (1H, PCH₂, ²J_{PH} = 20.9, ²J_{HH} = 15.5 Hz), 3.10 d.d (1H, PCH₂, ²J_{PH} = 21.0, ²J_{HH} = 15.5 Hz), 4.58 m [2H, (CH₃)₂CHO], 7.20–7.90 m (4H, H_{arom}). ³¹P NMR spectrum: δ_p 22.5 ppm. Found, %: C 62.03; H 7.62. C₁₈H₂₇N₂O₃P. Calculated, %: C 61.71; H 7.71.

The presence of an amino group in the 2-position enables 2-aminobenzimidazole to react with 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonates along two pathways (Scheme 2) involving addition by the endo- (pathway *a*) or exocyclic nitrogen atom (pathway *b*). By heating an equimolar mixture of diethyl 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonate with 2-aminobenzimidazole until disappearance of the allene stretching vibration band (1955 cm⁻¹) from the IR spectrum of the reaction mixture we obtained a thick oily material whose ³¹P NMR spectrum contained only one signal at

δ_p 26.1 ppm. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of the product we observed two doublets at δ 1.53 (⁵J_{PH} = 5.0 Hz) and 1.61 ppm (⁵J_{PH} = 6.1 Hz) which are typical of protons in two nonequivalent methyl groups linked to an sp²-carbon atom; also, a signal at δ 2.98 ppm (d.d, ²J_{PH} = 20.3, ²J_{HH} = 15.9 Hz) was present due to methylene protons in the α-position with respect to the phosphorus atom. These findings indicated that the nitrogen atom of benzimidazole added to the central carbon atom of the cumulene system with saturation of the C¹=C² bond.

The addition product displayed in the mass spectrum a strong ion peak with *m/z* 542.2543, corresponding to the formula C₂₅H₄₁N₃O₆P₂ (calculated for [M + H]⁺: *m/z* 542.2543), i.e., it was formed by addition of two phosphonate molecules to one 2-aminobenzimidazole molecule. The mass spectrum of the reaction mixture also contained a low-intensity ion peak with *m/z* 338.1628; the calculated elemental composition of that ion, C₁₆H₂₄N₃O₃P, matches the 1:1 adduct (calculated for [M + H]⁺: *m/z* 338.1628). We previously showed that 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonate reacts with 2-aminobenzothiazole at the endocyclic nitrogen atom of the latter, and the imine structure of the addition product was unambiguously determined by X-ray analysis [3]. According to the X-ray diffraction data [4], 2-aminobenzimidazole adds to dimethyl propadiene-1,3-dicarboxylate via attack by

the endocyclic nitrogen atom on the central carbon atom of the cumulene system. On the basis of the data of [2, 3] and ^1H and ^{31}P NMR and mass spectra, we presumed that diethyl 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonate reacts with 2-aminobenzimidazole at a ratio of 2:1 following pathway *a*, i.e., via addition of two phosphonate molecules to the endocyclic nitrogen atoms of 2-aminobenzimidazole with formation of tetraethyl 2,2'-(2-imino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzimidazole-1,3-diyl)bis(3-methylbut-2-en-1-ylphosphonate) (**3**). Yield 69%, $n_{\text{D}}^{20} = 1.5318$. ^1H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 1.09 t (6H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz), 1.53 d and 1.61 d [3H each, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{C}=\text{C}$, $^5J_{\text{PH}} = 6.1$ Hz], 2.98 d.d (2H, PCH_2 , $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 20.3$, $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 15.9$ Hz), 3.88 m (4H, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 5.89 br.s (NH), 6.70–7.30 m (4H, H_{arom}). ^{31}P NMR spectrum: $\delta_{\text{P}} 26.1$ ppm. The bottom layer of the reaction mixture was a white crystalline solid identified as unreacted 2-aminobenzimidazole, mp 227°C (published data [2]: mp 226–231°C).

Likewise, the reaction of 2-aminobenzimidazole with diisopropyl 3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-ylphosphonate afforded tetraisopropyl 2,2'-(2-imino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzimidazole-1,3-diyl)bis(3-methylbut-2-en-1-ylphosphonate) (**5**). Yield 63%, $n_{\text{D}}^{20} = 1.5288$. ^1H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 1.14 t [6H, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHO}$, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1$ Hz], 1.51 d (3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{C}$, $^5J_{\text{PH}} = 6.0$ Hz), 1.60 d (3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{C}$, $^5J_{\text{PH}} = 5.9$ Hz), 3.0 d.d (2H, PCH_2 , $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 21.1$, $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz), 4.49 m [2H, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHO}$], 6.70–7.20 m (4H, H_{arom}). ^{31}P NMR spectrum: $\delta_{\text{P}} 25.6$ ppm.

Found, %: C 57.88; H 8.04. $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{49}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6\text{P}_2$. Calculated, %: C 58.29; H 8.21.

The IR spectra were recorded on a UR-20 spectrometer. The ^1H and ^{31}P NMR spectra were measured on a Varian Unity-300 spectrometer at 300 and 121.4 MHz, respectively, using CDCl_3 as solvent and reference (for ^1H); the ^{31}P chemical shifts were measured relative to 85% H_3PO_4 (external standard). The mass spectra were obtained on an AB Sciex 5600 high-resolution mass spectrometer (electrospray ionization, positive ion detection; voltage 5500 V; nebulizer gas pressure 25 psi; solvent methanol–water, 1:1; TOF MS mode, declustering potential 100 eV, collision energy 10 eV).

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