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Deuteration of Bromophenol Derivatives with Cu-Al Alloy in a D₂O Solution of Sodium Carbonate or Barium Oxide

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The reductive debromination of bromophenol derivatives and 1-bromonaphthalene-2-ol with Cu-Al alloy in a D₂O solution of sodium carbonate or barium oxide at 60°C under a nitrogen atmosphere gives ring-deuteriated phenol derivatives and 1-deuterionaphthalene-2-ol, respectively, in good yields and in high isotopic purities.

INTRODUCTION

It has been reported previously that the reductive dehalogenation of halo-phenols,¹⁾ halo-benzoic acids,²⁾ halo-acetophenones,³⁾ and halo-salicylic acids⁴⁾ with Raney Ni-Al, Cu-Al, or Co-Al alloys in NaOD-D₂O solution affords the corresponding deuteriated phenols, benzoic acids, 1-phenylethanols, and salicylic acids, respectively. Furthermore, deuteriated thiophene-2-, furan-2-, and pyrrole-2-carboxylic acids have been prepared by treatment of the corresponding bromothiophene-2-, bromofuran-2-, and bromopyrrole-2-carboxylic acids with Cu-Al alloy in NaOD-D₂O solution.⁵⁾ However, NaOD-D₂O solution is quite expensive, and the operations described in these reports require some difficult conditions to prepare the deuteriated derivatives in a laboratory. Recently, we found that both Na₂CO₃-D₂O and BaO-D₂O solutions are useful alkaline deuterium oxide solutions similar to the NaOD-D₂O solution. In this paper, we wish to report on a simpler and more convenient reductive debromination of bromophenol derivatives (including methyl- and methoxy-substituted bromophenols) **1** and 1-bromonaphthalene-2-ol (**3**) to the corresponding deuteriated phenols **2** and 1-deuterionaphthalene-2-ol (**4**) with Cu-Al alloy in a D₂O solution of Na₂CO₃ or BaO.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reaction of **1** with Cu-Al alloy in Na₂CO₃-D₂O or saturated BaO-D₂O solution at 60°C gave corresponding **2** in fairly good yields and in high isotopic purities. The results are summarized in Scheme 1 and Table 1.

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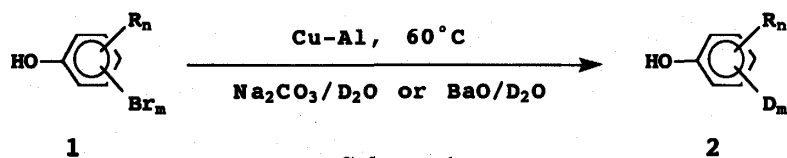
Dedicated to Professor Tetsu Fujii on the occasion of his retirement

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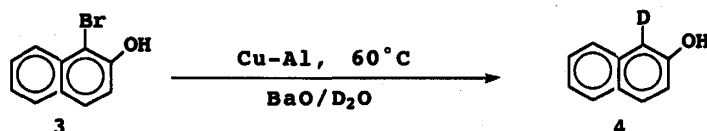
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Deuteration of Bromophenol Derivatives with Cu-Al Alloy



Scheme 1

a ; 2-Br	j ; 2,4-Br ₂ -3,6-Me ₂	a ; 2-D	j ; 2,4-D ₂ -3,6-Me ₂
b ; 3-Br	k ; 4-Br-2,6-Me ₂	b ; 3-D	k ; 4-D-2,6-Me ₂
c ; 4-Br	l ; 2,6-Br ₂ -3,4-Me ₂	c ; 4-D	l ; 2,6-D ₂ -3,4-Me ₂
d ; 2,4-Br	m ; 2,4,6-Br ₃ -3,5-Me ₂	d ; 2,4-D ₂	m ; 2,4,6-D ₃ -3,5-Me ₂
e ; 2,4,6-Br ₃	n ; 2,4-Br ₂ -6-OMe	e ; 2,4,6-D ₃	n ; 2,4-D ₂ -6-OMe
f ; 2,4-Br ₂ -6-Me	o ; 2,4,6-Br ₃ -3-OMe	f ; 2,4-D ₂ -6-Me	o ; 2,4,6-D ₃ -3-OMe
g ; 2,4,6-Br ₃ -3-Me	p ; 2,4,Br ₂ -4-OMe	g ; 2,4,6-D ₃ -3-Me	p ; 2,4, D ₂ -4-OMe
h ; 2,4-Br ₂ -5,6-Me ₂	q ; 2,6-Br ₂ -4-t-Bu	h ; 2,4-D ₂ -5,6-Me ₂	q ; 2,6-D ₂ -4-t-Bu
i ; 2-Br-4,6-Me ₂		i ; 2-D-4,6-Me ₂	



Scheme 2

As shown in the table, it has been found that methyl- (1f-1m) and methoxy-substituted bromophenols (1n-1p) give the corresponding deuteriated 2 in better yields than unsubstituted bromophenols (1a-1e). Electron donating groups such as methyl- and methoxy-groups in 1 increase the reactivity of 1 for the reduction in an alkaline D₂O solution. Bromonaphthol 3 was similarly reduced to the corresponding deuteriated naphthol 4 as shown in scheme 2 and Table 1.

We believe that the reductive debromination of 1 with Cu-Al alloy in Na₂CO₃-D₂O or BaO-D₂O solution is a very useful method owing to the ease of the procedure, the cheapness of the alkaline reagents, and the mildness of conditions.

EXPERIMENTAL

2-Deuteriophenol (2a). Typical Procedure Using Na₂CO₃-D₂O Solution: 2-Bromophenol (0.52 g, 3 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 0.625 M-Na₂CO₃-D₂O (30 cm⁻³) (1 M = 1 mol dm⁻³) at 60°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. To the solution was gradually added Cu-Al alloy (0.051 g × 16) at 10 min intervals. Vigorous reaction occurred each time the alloy was added. After the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional hour, the insoluble material was separated by filtration. The filtrate was acidified with a 12 M-HCl solution and extracted with dichloromethane (40 cm⁻³ × 4). The dichloromethane solution was dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to afford 2a as a colorless oil, which was analyzed by GC and MS; yield 0.20 g (69%).

2,4-Dideutrio-6-methylphenol (2f). Typical Procedure Using a Saturated BaO-D₂O Solution: 2,4-Dibromo-6-methylphenol (0.78 g, 3 mmol) was dissolved in a saturated solution of BaO-D₂O (50 cm⁻³) at 60°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. To the solution was added Cu-Al alloy (0.16 g × 21) at 10 min intervals. A subsequent work-up as mentioned above gave 2f as a colorless solid; yield 0.22 g (69%).

Table 1 Reductive Deuteration of Bromophenol Derivatives **1** and 1-Bromonaphthalene-2-ol (**2**) with Cu-Al alloy in Na₂CO₃-D₂O or Saturated BaO-D₂O Solution at 60°C

Substrate ^{a)}	Alkaline ^{b)} medium (cm ⁻³)	Cu-Al ^{c)}	Product (Yield %) ^{d)}	Composition (%) ^{e)}				
				d ₀	d ₁	d ₂	d ₃	d ₄
1 a	A (30)	0.051 g × 16	2 a (69)	3	96	1	0	0
1 b	A (30)	0.08 g × 16	2 b (52)	3	96	1	0	0
1 c	A (30)	0.051 g × 16	2 c (59)	4	95	1	0	0
1 d	A (30)	0.16 g × 21	2 d (55)	0	5	92	3	0
1 e	A (40)	0.23 g × 26	2 e (69)	0	1	5	93	1
1 f	B (50)	0.15 g × 16	2 f (69)	0	10	90	0	0
1 g	B (45)	0.15 g × 16	2 g (70)	0	3	14	78	5
1 h	B (35)	0.15 g × 16	2 h (92)	0	10	87	3	0
1 i	B (50)	0.15 g × 16	2 i (46)	9	85	6	0	0
1 j	B (50)	0.15 g × 21	2 j (76)	0	12	82	6	0
1 k	B (35)	0.15 g × 16	2 k (76)	5	93	2	0	0
1 l	B (50)	0.15 g × 16	2 l (81)	0	12	85	3	0
1 m	A (50)	0.19 g × 26	2 m (89)	0	1	11	83	5
1 n	B (50)	0.15 g × 16	2 n (82)	0	7	92	1	0
1 o	B (50)	0.19 g × 26	2 o (99)	0	3	23	72	2
1 p	B (50)	0.15 g × 21	2 p (97)	0	7	91	2	0
1 q	B (50)	0.15 g × 21	2 q (70)	0	2	95	3	0
3	B (35)	0.15 g × 13	4 (91)	18	77	5	0	0

a) Every experiment was carried out using 3.5 mmol of a substrate. b) A: 0.625M-Na₂CO₃-D₂O. B: Saturated BaO-D₂O. c) The alloy was added at 10 min. intervals. d) Yield of isolated product. e) Determined by MS.

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