

Available online at https://ap.ardabil.iau.ir/ Islamic Azad University, Ardabil Branch Anthropogenic Pollution Journal, Vol 7 (1), 2023: 97-103 ISSN: 2783-1736- E-ISSN: 2588-4646



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Removal Study of Hazardous Thiols Pollution by Tributylammonium Halochromates(VI) / Silica , $(C_4H_9)_3$ NH [CrO₃X] , (X=F, Cl): as an Oxidizing Agent

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: 2023.07.29 Revised: 2023.08.06 Accepted: 2023.08.16 Published online: 2023.08.16

DOI: 10.22034/AP.2023.1992295.1163

Keywords

Halochromates Heterogeneous oxidants Silica gel Thiol Disulfide

ABSTRACT

Oxidative coupling of thiols to the corresponding symmetrical disulfides were performed in the presence of silica gel supported tributylammonium fluorochromate(VI), (TriBAFC), and tributylammonium chlorochromate(VI), (TriBACC). Silica gel supported TriBAFC and TriBACC are versatile reagents for the effective and selective oxidation of organic substrates, in particular of thiol, under mild conditions. Disulfides are also key intermediates in a wide variety of organic synthetic routes. Considerable improvements are observed in the presence of the absorbent and making the work-up much more convenient. The nature of the solvent does not appear to be particularly critical. Hydrocarbons, benzene, ethers and chlorinated hydrocarbons are equally effective, the practical choice being oriented by the solubility of the products and the desired reaction temperature. The IR spectra of TriBAFC and TriBACC are similar to that of other fluoro and chlorochromates, TriBAFC and TriBACC are soluble in water, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, acetone and dichloromethane; they are only sparingly soluble in benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform and hexane.

How to Site: Mohammadi MK, Removal Study of Hazardous Thiols Pollution by Tributylammonium Halochromates(VI) / Silica , $(C_4H_9)_3NH$ [CrO₃X], (X=F, Cl): as an Oxidizing Agent, Anthropogenic Pollution Journal, Vol 7 (1), 2023: 97-103, DOI: 10.22034/AP.2023.1992295.1163.

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1. Background

Today, the human living environment is facing serious environmental hazards due to pollutants present in water, soil and air (Fekri et al., 2021; Tabari et al., 2021; Jalalzadeh et al., 2022; Khajeh Hoseini et al., 2022).

These compounds are toxic compounds resulting from industrial and laboratory activities, such as heavy metals (Sekhavati and jalilzadeh, 2021; Masoumi et al., 2022; Heidari Farsani et al., 2021), chemicals(Elmi et al., 2021; Farsani et al., 2022), pesticides (Orooji et al., 2022), drugs(Gashtasbi et al., 2017), industrial dyes(Farjam et al., 2014; Karbul et al., 2021)., petroleum derivatives (Alishiri et al., 2020;). and other synthetic compounds(Jalilzadeh et al., 2014).

Disulfides are one of the most important organic sulfur compounds possessing an exclusive chemistry both in biochemistry and in synthetic area (Fieser et al., 1967-84; Jocelyn, 1992; Capozzi et al., 1974). Disulfides are also key intermediates in a wide variety of organic synthetic routes (Lam et al., 1989; Attri et al. 2012; Oka et al., 2021) . Sweetening of catalyst poisons thiols to low volatile disulfides in oil industries (Holbrook, 1996; Leitao et al., 1987) and also industrial applications of disulfides in vulcanization of rubbers and elastomers led us to investigate the introduction and applications of new member of this category of reagents in oxidation of thiols to the corresponding disulfides.

Many stoichiometric reagents like Iodine (Zeinizadeh, 2002; Olivier et al., 2023), potassium phosphate (Ashutosh, 2005), Ti(IV) (Zeinizadeh et al., 2003), TEMPO-Catalyzed Aerobic Oxidation(Liting et al., 2017), tripropylammonium chlorochromate (Ghammami et al., 2005), N-tert-Butyl-N-chlorocyanamide (Kumar et al., 2008) [14], Dithiooxamide (Firouzabadi et al., 2015), photocatalytic aerobic oxidation (Talla et al., 2015), Alkanes (Yu-Jian et al. 2023), ethyl potassium xanthogenate (Soleiman-Beigi et al., 2018) and urea-hydrogen peroxide catalyzed by a Mn(III)–salen complex (Hosseinpoor et al ., 2006) have been developed for this transformation. In constitution of our work on organic synthesis methodology, (Ghammamy et al., 2007; Ghammamy et al., 2008).

Physical & chemical (Karimipour et al., 2021; Babaei et al., 2017; Khayatnezhad and Nasehi, 2021, Wang et al., 2022) and biological methods (Abbaspour et al., 2013; Jalilzadeh Yengejeh et al., 2017; Beidaghdar et al., 2022) and many integrated methods are common to reduce or remove these compounds (pollutants). However, considering the variety of pollutants and in order to increase efficiency, it is necessary to use new technologies such as nano technology (Mehrdoost et al., 2022; Bayati et al., 2021), advanced oxidation processes (Yousefi et al., 2021; Shokri et al., 2019; Sadeghi et al., 2022; Talaei et al., 2022), ultrasonic (Sun et al., 2023), cold plasma process (Pillai and Thomas, 2023) along with existing methods to control and reduce and their removal should be considered before the evacuation of the receiving environment (Nouri Dodaran et al., 2019; Ahari et al., 2020; Nikpour et al., 2020; Kordestani et al., 2020).

We wish to report silica gel supported tributhylammonium fluorochromate (TriBAFC) and tributhylammonium chlorochromate (TriBACC) able to oxidize thiols to their disulfides efficiently under different reaction conditions.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and instruments

CrO₃ (Merck, p. a) was used without further purification. Solvents were purified by standard methods. Infrared spectra were recorded as KBr disks on a Shimadzu model 420 spectrophotometer. The UV/Vis measurements were made on an Uvicon model 922 spectrometer. Proton, ¹³C, ¹⁹F-NMR were carried out on a Bruker AVANCE DRX 500 spectrometer at 500, 125, 470.66 MHz, respectively. All the chemical shifts are quoted in ppm using the high-frequency positive convention; the ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra were referenced to external SiMe, and the ¹⁹F-NMR spectra to external CFCl,. Chromium was estimated iodometrically. In the case of the reduced product of the oxidant, chromium was determined after oxidizing with acidic peroxodisulfate (K₂S₂O₂) solution. The percent composition of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were obtained from the Microanalytical Laboratories of the Department of Chemistry, OIRC, Tehran.

Experiments were carried out in multi mode Microsynth Milstone laboratory microwave oven using a 900 Watts Westpointe microwave operating at 2.45 GHz with an internal volume of 0.9 m^2

2.2.Tributylammonium Fluorochromate (TriBAFC), (C₄H₉)₃NH [CrO₃F]

1g (10 mmol) sample of chromium (VI) oxide, CrO., and 0.9 ml (20 mmol) of 40% hydrofluoric acid were added to 20 ml of water in a 100 ml polyethylene beaker with stirring. After 5-7 min the homogeneous solution was cooled to ca. 0-2 °C. To the resultant clear orange solution, tributylamine (2.35ml, 10 mmol) was added dropwise with stirring over a period of 0.5 h and stirring was continued for 0.5 h at -4 °C. The precipitated yellowishorange solid was isolated by filtration on a polyethylene funnel, washed with petroleum ether $(3 \times 60 \text{ ml})$ and dried in vacuum for 2 h at room temperature Yield: (84%); mp 134 °C, C₁₂H₂₈CrFNO₃: Calc. C, 47.20; H, 9.24; N, 4.58 Found: C, 46.92; H, 9.64; N, 5.20. I.R. (KBr): 914 cm⁻¹ $v_1(A_1)$ or $v(CrO_3)$, 634 cm⁻¹ $v_2(A_1)$ or v(Cr-F), 950 cm⁻¹ $v_4(E)$ or $v(CrO_3)$, Electronic absorption at 22321 cm⁻¹, corresponded to ${}^{1}A_{2} \rightarrow {}^{1}E$ ($\varepsilon = 177 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$); 28735 m⁻¹ to ${}^{1}E \rightarrow {}^{1}E$ ($\varepsilon = 701 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) and 35971 cm⁻¹ to ${}^{1}A_{1} \rightarrow {}^{1}E(\varepsilon =$ 1314 M⁻¹cm⁻¹). UV/Visible, ¹³C NMR, ¹H NMR and ¹⁹F NMR were all consistent with the TriBAFC structure. The above procedure can be scaled up to larger quantities, if desired. The pH of 0.01 M solution of TriBAFC in water was 3.15.

2.3. Tributylammonium chlorochromate (TriBACC), (C,H₀),NH [CrO,Cl]

Chromium(VI) oxide (1.0 g. 0.01 mol) was dissolved in water in a beaker and 6M hydrochloric acid (0.251 cm³, 0.015 mol) was added under stirring at 0 °C. To the resultant clear orange solution, tributylamine (0.185 cm³, 0.01 mol) was added dropwise under stirring over a period of 0.5 h and the stirring was continued for 0.5 h at 0 °C. The precipitated orange solid was isolated by filtration, washed with petroleum ether (3 x 60 cm³) and dried under vacuum for 2 h at room temperature. Yield: (71 %); mp126 °C. Calcd. for $C_{12}H_{28}ClCrNO_3$: C, 44.79; H, 8.70; N, 4.35. Found: C, 44.59; H, 8.81; N, 4.38. IR (KBr): 898 cm⁻¹ $v_1(A_1)$ or $v(CrO_3)$, 436 cm⁻¹ $v_2(A_1)$ or v(Cr-Cl), 940 cm⁻¹ $v_4(E)$ or $v(CrO_3)$ cm⁻¹. UV/Visible and ¹H-NMR were all consistent with the TriBACC structure. Electronic absorption at 21881 cm⁻¹, corresponding to ¹A₂ \rightarrow ¹E (ε =336 dm³mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹); 28089 cm⁻¹ to ¹E \rightarrow ¹E (ε = 891 dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹) and 34965 cm⁻¹ to ¹A₂ \rightarrow ¹A₁ (ε = 1178 dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹). The pH of 0.01 M solution of TriBACC in water was 2.9.

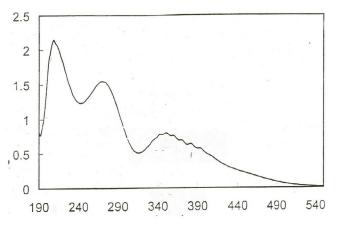


Figure 1. UV-Vis spectrum of Tributylammonium Fluorochromate (TriBAFC)

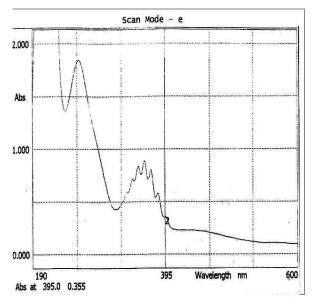


Figure 2. UV-Vis spectrum of Tributylammonium chloroochromate (TriBACC)

2.4. General procedure for Preparation of silica gel supported reagents

Neutral silica gel (Aldrich, - 150 mesh) added to the cold solution of TriBAFC or TriBACC. 30 min evaporation of the solvent under vacuum affords orange – red slurry, which is completely dried on the surface of highly dried day plate in the air.

2.5. General procedure for oxidation of Thiols with TriBAFC and TriBACC

To a stirred suspension of Tributylammonium halochromate absorbed on silica gel in dichloromethane (generally 5 cm³), a solution of the substrate in the minimum amount of dichloromethane were added dropwise (Table 1).

Figure 3. Synthesis of symmetrical disulfide with TriBAXC (X=F,Cl)

	Substrate	Product	TriBAFC		TriBACC	
			Time (min)	Yield (%)	Time (min)	Yield (%)
1	CH ₃ -CH-SH CH ₃ la	CH ₃ -CH-S-S-CH-CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₃ 2a	115	78	150	91
2	n-C5H11-SH	C ₅ H ₁₁ -S-S-C ₅ H ₁₁ 2b	105	86	120	87
3	1b n-C8H17-SH 1c	C ₈ H ₁₇ -S-S-C ₈ H ₁₇ 2c	108	90	80	91
4	SH	S-S-S 2d	95	82	152	89
5	ld HOOC-CH2-SH le	HOOC-CH ₂ -S-S-CH ₂ -COOH 2e	109	80	212	85
6	SH lf	S-S-S 2f	123	87	38	92
7	Me-SH	Me-S-S-S-Me	128	84	34	89
8	SH	S-S-C	138	81	50	92
	1h	2h				

Table 1.	Oxidation y	via	TriBAFC and	TriBACC /	silica gel

The completion of the reaction was followed by TLC using ether/petroleum ether (60/40) as eluant. The mixture is diluted with ether (1:1 v/v) and filtered through a short column of silica gel to give a clear solution. The solution was evaporated and the residual product purified by distillation, recrystallization or column chromatography. (Figure 1)

3. Results

The known and existing reagents suffer from either one or more of the following disadvantages such as availability of the reagent, cumbersome work-up procedure, high cost of the reagent, over oxidation or oxidation of other functional groups in the presence of thiol group. As a result, there is still a need for the development of general, efficient, and new reagents to synthesize disulfides from the corresponding thiols under mild reaction conditions. These reactions are not only interest from ecological viewpoint, but also in many cases offer considerable synthetic advantages in terms of the yield, selectivity and simplicity of the reaction procedure. The results obtained with supported tributylammonium fluorochromate and tributylammonium chlorochromate are very satisfactory and show the new reagents to be valuable addition to the existing oxidizing agents. (Table 1) summarizes the products, yields and reaction times of silica gel supported TriBAFC and TriBACC with various substrates.

The spectral data for all disulfides are followed:

2- isopropyldisulfanyl-propane (2a). IR (KBr) Cm $^{-1}$ 3000-2900 C-H(aliph . strech), 1400-1350 C-H (aliph .bend) , 1200- 1100 C-S (strech) . 1 H NMR (300 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 2.7 (m, 2H) ,1.5 (d, 12H) . 13 C NMR (300 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 38.5 (d) , 24(q) . HRMS Calcd for C₆H₁₄S₂ : M⁺, 150.4125 . Found : *m/z* 150.4117(average).

1-pentyldisulfanyl – **pentane (2b).** IR (KBr) Cm⁻¹ 3000-2900 C-H(aliph . strech) 1200- 1100 C-S (strech). ¹H NMR (500 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 2.5 (t , 4 H) ,1.6 (m, 4H) , 1.25(m, 4H) 1.3 (m , 4H) , .85 (t , 6H) . ¹³C NMR (125 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 36, 33, 31, 23.5, 14.5. HRMS Calcd for C₁₀H₂₂S₂ : M⁺, 206.8542 . Found: *m/z* 206.1654(average). **1-octyldisulfanyl-octane (2c).** IR (KBr) Cm⁻¹ 3000-2900 C-H(aliph . strech) 1200- 1100 C-S (strech) . ¹H NMR (500 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 2.6 (t , 4 H) ,1.5 (m, 4H) , 1.2(m, 18H) .9 (t, 6H) . ¹³C NMR (125 MHz , CDCl₃)) δ 33.66, 32.5, 31.43, 31.35, 31.22, 27.03, 23.5, 15.02. HRMS Calcd for C₁₆H₃₄S₂ : M⁺, 290.1213. Found : *m/z* 290.3564(average).

disulfanyl-cyclohexane (2d) . IR (KBr) Cm $^{-1}$ 3000-2900 C-H(aliph . strech) , 1200-1100 C-S (strech) . ¹H NMR (500 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 2.5 (m , 2 H) ,1.65 (dt, 8H) , 1.4 (m, 12H) . ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 52.56, 34.52, 26.59, 25.38. HRMS Calcd for C₁₂H₂₂S₂ : M⁺, 230.2135 . Found: *m/z* 230.2120 (average).

disulfanyl –acetic acid (2e) . IR (KBr) Cm $^{-1}$ 3500-3200 COOH(strech) , 3000-2900 C-H(aliph . strech) ,1200- 1100 C-S (strech) . ¹H NMR (500 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 2.27 (s , 4H) ,11.5 (s ,2H) . ¹³C NMR (125 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 35 (t) , 179 (s) . HRMS Calcd for C₄H₆O₄S₂ : M⁺, 182.1478, Found: *m/z* 182.342(1average).

disulfanyl-benzene (2f) . IR (KBr) Cm $^{-1}$ 3200-3100 C-H(Ar . strech) , 1200- 1150 C-S (strech) . ¹H NMR (500 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (d , 4 H) ,7.25 (m, 6H). 13 C NMR (125MHz , CDCl₃) δ 133, 131.4, 130.2, 129.53. C $_{12}H_{10}S_2$: Calc. C, 66.1; H, 4.71; S, 29.37. Found: C, 66.22; H, 4.65; S, 29.2 .

4,4- di –methyl disulfanyl- benzene(2g) or bis(4methylphenyl)disulfide: IR (KBr) Cm ⁻¹ 3200-2100 C-H(Ar . strech) , 3000-2900 C-H(aliph . strech) 1480-1400 C-H (Ar.bend) ,1200- 1100 C-S (strech).

. ¹H NMR (500 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 7.5 (d , 4 H) , 7.2(d, 4H) , 2.5(s, 6H) . ¹³C NMR (125 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 126 (S) , 130 (d) , 127 (d) , 124 (s) , 21 (q) .C₁₄H₁₄S₂ : Calc. C,68.29;

H, 5.70; S, 26.1. Found: C, 68.46; H, 5.60; S, 26.23.

β-disulfanyl – **naphthalene (2h)**. IR (KBr) Cm⁻¹ 3200-3100 C-H(Ar . strech) , 1200- 1150 C-S (strech) . ¹H NMR (300 MHz , CDCl₃) δ 8.1 (s , 2 H) ,7.7 (d, 2H), 7.5 (d,6H) 7.32(d,4H) . ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.76, 137.11, 135.26, 134.52, 131.57, 128.92, 127.08, 126.16, 125.02, 124.87. $C_{20}H_{14}S_2$: Calc. C,75.47; H, 4.40; S, 20.12. Found: C, 75.36; H, 4.32; S, 20.89.

4. Discussion

Oxidations may also occur using only TriBAFC and TriBACC, in the absence of SiO_2 , but considerable improvements are observed in the presence of the absorbent. This implies that the SiO_2 may act as a reaction medium, providing an effective heterogeneous surface area for the oxidation and at the same time making the work-up much more convenient.

The nature of the solvent does not critical. Hydrocarbons, benzene, ethers and chlorinated hydrocarbons are equally effective, the practical choice being oriented by the solubility of the products and the desired reaction temperature. The chromium (VI) contents easily determined iodometrically.

The IR spectra of TriBAFC and TriBACC are similar to that of other fluoro and chlorochromates, TriBAFC and TriBACC are soluble in water, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, acetone and dichloromethane; they are only sparingly soluble in benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform and hexane.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, it has been found that TriBAFC and TriBACC acts as a simple, efficient, and fast oxidizing reagent in the oxidative coupling of thiols. The easy procedure, simple work-up, the easy preparation of the reagent, short reaction times, and excellent yields of the products would make this reagent a useful addition to available oxidants. Also, it should be emphasized that the reactions can be performed cleanly and can be controlled to stop at the disulfide stage. Overoxidation has not been observed, even when the reactions were carried out under different conditions.

6. Acknowledgments

The author thanks Islamic Azad University, Ahvaz Branch for valuable helps.

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