

Kinetic Study of Some Para-Substituted Benzhydrols with Selenium Dioxide

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses SeO_2 led kinetic studies of the oxidation of P-Br, P-CH₃, and P-CH₃CH₂ benzhydrols in aqueous acetic acid medium. The study afforded a good yield of a series of variously p-substituted benzophenones as the oxidation products. The rate of reaction was found to vary as a first-power of concentration of oxidant, substrate and acid. The postulated $H_2SeO_3^+$ reacting species participated in the reaction mechanism with stoichiometric mole ratio 1:2. The effect of changing dielectric constant of the medium on the rate indicates the reaction to be of dipole-dipole type. The activation parameters are computed for the slow step of the mechanism.

Keywords: *p*-bromobenzhydrol, *p*-methylbenzhydrol, *p*-ethylbenzhydrol, selenium dioxide, inductive effect.

INTRODUCTION

SeO₂ is a selective and mild, non-hazardous oxidant used mostly in acidic medium producing $H_2SeO_3^+$ or AcH₂SeO₃ as reacting species.¹ Owing to presence of -Br, -CH₃ and -CH₃CH₂ functional groups in para-position and -OH group which is linked directly to the secondary carbon atom of benzhydrol make its mechanism very interesting and reactive in addition to exhibition of electro negativity, -I, +I effects and +mesomeric effect.

These substrates show a numerous chemical reactions with variety of oxidants viz. NBS,² NBP³ halo oxidants KMnO₄ etc.. The researcher have also been reported in their previous communication the results of SeO₂⁵ oxidation of benzhydrol and p-chloro benzhydrol. A few reports are available for the possibility of using SeO₂ in oxidizing ketones,⁶⁻⁸ alcohol⁹ and aldehydes¹⁰ etc.

There is however, no reported information on the possible reaction mechanism or its selectivity. A kinetic study was undertaken to formulate a possible mechanism. For this purpose, after studying the overall reaction, we subdivided it into elementary steps which would permit confirmation of the proposed hypothesis.

EXPERIMENTAL

All the chemicals used were of reagent grade and the solutions were prepared in double distilled water. The solution of SeO_2 (Loba grade) was prepared and kept in safer dark and dry place so that it could not decompose even after long periods at $50^{\circ}C$.

The solutions of reagent grade of p-Br, p-CH₃ and p-CH₃CH₂ benzhydrols were prepared at the required concentrations by dilution and testing the stability under the same operating conditions. Other required standard solutions of appropriate concentrations of reagents were prepared related to study. The oxidation reactions were carried out in a 500 ml pyrex glass reaction vessel fitted with a variable speed stirrer and a jacket for the circulation of thermo regulating water. The temperature of the water was regulated with a precision of $\pm 0.1^0$ by a thermostat. The volumes of SeO₂ were determined by redox titration.¹¹

Kinetics

The kinetic study of the reaction was approached by the method of initial velocities varying the concentration of one reagent at a time. The agitation speed and vessel were such

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as to avoid having to physically control the reaction rate. The reduction reaction was followed by adding the substrates directly into the thermo regulated vessel containing the SeO₂ solution. The determination of the concentrations of the oxidant SeO₂ unreacted left was done iodometrically. The rate constant (k) was computed by graphical and other methods that satisfied stoichiometry (1:2). p-Br, p-CH₃, and p-CH₃CH₂ benzophenones were identified as the products of the reactions by forming their vellow 2.4-DNP derivatives, spectrophotometrically and also by determining their melting points compared with authenticated samples. The study rules out the presence of free radicals in the reaction mixtures when tested with acrylonitrile.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The effect of oxidant SeO₂ was studied by keeping all other concentrations constant at fix temperature. The [SeO₂] was varied from $1.25 \times 10-3$ to $5.0 \times 10-3$ mol dm-1 and pseudo first-order rate constant (kobs), were found to be indicating the first-order dependence of the reaction on [SeO₂]. The pseudo first-order rate constants (kobs) were found to increase with

increase in concentration of p-bromo, p-methyl and p-ethyl benzhydrols varied between 0.02 to 1.0 mol dm-3 at constant concentrations of oxidant, H+, CH₃COOH etc. The plot of kobs against [p-substituted benzhydrol] were also found to be linear ($R^2 = > 0.9912$), indicating that rate of reaction is proportional to firstpower of [substrate]. The H+ ion concentration in the reaction mixture was calculated using known equilibrium constants of H₂SO₄ and orders in [H⁺] were determined from log [H+] against log kobs plots. By examining the data obtained, it was found that kobs is first-order (slope = 0.97) for each of the reagents.

The primary salts effects have been found negligible as rate of reaction remains almost addition unaltered bv the of different concentrations of salt. The rate of oxidation was found to increase with increase in composition of CH₃COOH-water (v/v) (Table 1). By plotting the inverse of dielectric constant (D) as a function of log k and examining the data obtained (Fig.1) afforded positive slopes for each substrate clearly indicate that the positive ion dipole involved in the rate determining step.



Figure.1 [Substrate] $102x \pmod{dm-3} = 2.50(1, 2), 2.0(3); [Seo2]103x \pmod{dm-3} = 2.50(1-3);$

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[H+] 103x (mol dm-3) =1.50(1), 1.0(2), 0.30(3); Temperature K=308(1), 303(2,3)

 Table1. Effect of solvent polarity on reaction rate

 $102 \times [Substrate] (mol dm-3) = 2.50 (1, 2), 2.0 (3);$

 $103 \times [SeO2] \pmod{\text{dm-3}} = 2.50 (1, 2, 3);$

 $103 \times [H+] \pmod{dm-3} = 0.50 (3), 1.0 (2), 1.540 (1);$

Temperature K = 308(1), 303(2, 3)

	CH ₃ COOH- H ₂ O,% (v/v)	10 ³ ×1/D	$\longleftarrow \qquad k \times 10^4 (s^{-1}) \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad$		
S. No			p-bromo benzhydrol(1)	p-methyl benzhydrol (2)	p-ethyl benzhydrol (3)
1.	20	17.17	1.41	2.39	2.18
2.	30	19.15	1.58	2.54	2.33
3.	40	21.98	1.74	2.83	2.59
4.	50	25.64	1.93	3.13	2.79

Table2. Thermodynamic parameters for the reaction between p-substituted benzhydrols and oxidant SeO2

S No	Activation	para-substituted benzhydrols			
5. 110	parameters	p-bromo benzhydrol (1)	p-methyl benzhydrol (2)	p-ethyl benzhydrol(3)	
1.	Ea (kJ mol ⁻¹)	38.74	31.92	30.48	
2.	$A \times 10^2 (s^{-1})$	5.80	6.11	4.74	
3.	$\Delta H^{\#}$ (kJ mol ⁻¹)	35.23	29.06	28.34	
4.	$\Delta G^{\#}$ (kJ mol ⁻¹)	89.23	86.42	85.98	
5.	$-\Delta S^{\#} (JK^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1})$	173.88	187.78	188.65	



$$SeO_2 + H_2O \longrightarrow H_2SeO_3 \qquad \dots \dots (1)$$
$$H_2SeO_3 \overleftarrow{H_1^+} H_3SeO_3^+ \qquad \dots \dots (2)$$

$$X - C_{6}H_{4} - C_{-}C_{6}H_{5} + O OH OH C (slow)$$

$$X - C_{6}H_{4} - C_{-}C_{6}H_{5} + O OH_{2} (slow)$$

$$X - C_{6}H_{4} - C_{-}C_{-}H_{5} + O OH_{2} (slow) OH_{2} (sl$$

where, X = -Br, -CH₃ and -CH₃CH₂ respectively.

Reaction Mechanism

Mechanistically the reaction modes depicted by involving neutral form of substrates and H_3SeO_3 + prevailing reacting species in presence of mineral acid H_2SO_4 . A plausible mechanism rationalizing the observed kinetic data is proposed. :

The rate law was derived in consistent with the observed kinetic data and thermodynamic parameters logically through postulated mechanism.

 $k_{obs} = k_1$ [p-substituted benzhydrol] [H₂SeO₃] [H⁺]

The following sequence of order of reactivity was observed:

P-ethylbenzhydrol > P-methylbenzhydrol > Pbromobenzhydrol

The substituents $-CH_3CH_2$ and $-CH_3$ groups present in the para-position of benzhydrol exhibit +I inductive and hyperconjugative effect which is more pronounced in the substrates understudy. The reactivity of the compound pbromo benzhydrol will be least reactive due to – I effect. The above order of reactivity is also supported by substituents effect, Hammet and isokinetic and Exner's plots (Δ H# vs. Δ S#, and log k 303 against log 318) (Fig.2). The linearity of Exner's plot¹² implies that all the substrates are oxidized by the same mechanism.

The isokinetic temperature ' β ' (363.17 K) lies well above the experimental temperature. The value of energy of activation is measure of above order of reactivity which is well in accordance with our findings (Table 2). The values of ΔG # and ΔS # execute important role in monitoring the rates of oxidation reactions through the enthalpy factor appear to be more predominating this lead that reactions are enthalpy controlled.

CONCLUSION

The $H_3SeO^+_3$ reaction species in presence of mineral acid postulated that lead the oxidation reactions with neutral species of substrate. The substituent's $-CH_3CH_2$ and $-CH_3$ group in the para-position of benzhydrol exhibit +I, hyper conjucation, and +mesomeric effect which is more pronounced in the substrates. The order of reactivity was explained based activation parameter Isokinetic and Exner's plot was also discussed.

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