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Synthesis and properties of phosphobetaine structures: IV. 3-(triphenylphosphonio)propanoate in reactions with dipolar electrophilic reagents

Galkin V., Bakhtiyarova Y., Sagdieva R., Galkina I., Cherkasov R., Krivolapov D., Gubaidullin A., Litvinov I.

Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

Abstract

Reactions of 3-(triphenylphosphonio)propanoate with heterocumulenes, such as phenyl isocyanate and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, were studied under the assumption that they proceed by nucleophilic addition and 1,4-dipolar cycloaddition schemes. Quantum-chemical calculations show that the σ^5 -phosphorane cycloadduct of the betaine with isocyanate is thermodynamically preferred over its isomeric zwitter-ionic adduct. However, the experimental evidence suggests that the reaction with phenyl isocyanate involves nucleophilic addition of the betaine to isocyanate followed by hydrolysis to form finally a complex of the starting betaine with diphenylurea. The structure of the complex was established by X-ray diffraction analysis. The revealed above controversy is explained by a high protophilicity of betaine structures, which is also confirmed by the results of the reaction of the betaine with carbodiimide. © Pleiades Publishing, Inc., 2006.

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