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Dedicated to Academician Irina P. Beletskaya on the occasion of her birthday

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Acylation of hydroxyphenylporphyrins by carboxylic acids in the presence of carbodiimides was studied and the optimal reaction conditions were determined. Some new esters of various hydroxyphenylporphyrins were synthesized.

Keywords: Porphyrins, acylation, DCC, EDAC, 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP).

Introduction

Porphyrins, having phenyl rings in meso-positions, are mostly known and available, since they can be easily obtained in high yields by condensation of substituted benzaldehydes with pyrrole or its linear derivatives (dipyrrolylmethanes or biladiens). Thus, these porphyrins are widely used in biological investigations, as catalysts of various processes and as medical preparations.[1-6]

Active groups in phenyl rings of phenyl substituted porphyrins (i.e., oxy or amino groups) may be rather easily modified. This allows to obtain the porphyrins with the substituents, which are able to interact with the inner porphyrin reaction center containing metal atom, to bind the porphyrins to various substrates and to favour the formation of nanostructures.

The most simple modification of oxy groups in the phenyl rings may be performed by their alkylation or acylation. Alkylation is realized by interaction of oxy groups with halogen derivatives in polar solvents in the presence of bases (usually DMF with potassium carbonate) and is rather widely studied.[7-10] At the same time acylation may be performed by different carboxylic acid derivatives (anhydrides or halogenanhydrides)[11-14] or by carboxylic acids themselves in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC).[15-18] The latter is more preferred, since the active derivatives of carboxylic acids can not be always obtained, and, moreover, the method with DCC allows to exclude the intermediate stages.

In this paper we describe the convenient and general method elaborated for acylation of hydroxyphenylporphyrins, that allows modifying of the initial phenylporphyrins with formation of various structures.

Results and Discussion

As the initial hydroxyphenylporphyrins we have used the relatively easily available isomeric 5-hydroxyphenyl-10,15,20-triphenylporphines 1, which were obtained by “mixed aldehyde” condensation of hydroxybenzaldehydes 6 and benzaldehyde 7 with pyrrole 5 in binary mixture xylene-trifluoracetic acid (Scheme 1). The attempts to synthesize these porphyrins by Lindsey method[19-24] did not lead to the desired result. Nevertheless, isomeric porphyrins 1 were obtained by two-stage scheme through 5-methoxyphenyl-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrins 10 with following demethylation of the porphyrin mixture by boron tribromide [25] and its chromatographic separation. It should be noted, that this method does not has any advantages over one-stage method, but allows the preparation of porphyrins containing more than one hydroxy group. Isolation of such porphyrins from the mixture obtained by one-stage procedure is very troublesome.

meso-Tetrakis(hydroxyphenyl)porphyrins 2 are formed with low yield by direct condensation reaction of hydroxybenzaldehydes 6 with pyrrole 5, thus they were synthesized by demethylation of more available tetrakis(methoxyphenyl)porphyrins 11 (Scheme 2).[26,27]

Isomeric 5-hydroxyphenyl-2,3,7,8,12,18-hexamethyl-13,18-di-n-amyIporphyrins 3 were synthesized by condensation of 4,4’-dimethyl-3,3’-di-n-amylpyrrolylmethane 12[24] with 2-formyl-3,4-dimethylpyrrole 13[25] in the presence of hydrobromic acid in alcohol leading to the corresponding biladiene 14 and its following interaction without isolation with hydroxybenzaldehydes 6, similarly to [29,30] (Scheme 3).

11-Bromoundecanoic acid 15 (R = (CH₂)₁₀Br) was used in the model reactions as acylation agent in the synthesis of porphyrins, containing the acyl group with terminal bromine atom, which later can be used in the nucleophilic substitution reactions.

In the process of our study it was established, that acylation of 1 (para) by chloroanhydride of 11-bromoundecanoic acid in pyridine similarly to [13] does not proceeds, as well as in the case of acid in the presence of N,N’-carbonyldiimidazole (CDI) as an activating agent. Therefore the acylation reaction in the presence of carbodiimide 16 derivatives as activator was studied (Scheme 4). There are two known effective carbodiimides: N,N’-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (16, R’ = R” = -C₆H₁₁) (DCC) and 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (16, R’ = -(CH₂)₃NH(CH₃)₂Cl; R” = -(CH₂)₁₀NH(CH₂)₁₀Br; R” = -(CH₂)₁₀Br).

![Scheme 1](image1.png)

![Scheme 2](image2.png)
Each of them has some advantages and disadvantages. We have established, that for the completion of the acylation reaction slightly larger quantity of DCC is required than DECC. On the other side, DCC is cheaper and more available as compared to DECC. At the equal molar ratio porphyrin:reagent the yield in the case of DECC is slightly higher – 71.6 % vs. 66.5 %. However, it should be taken into account that in the case of DCC the second reaction product (dicyclohexylurea \( \text{17, } R^1 = R^2 = C_6H_{11} \)) might contaminate the target product during the chromatographic purification.

Dichloromethane was chosen as a solvent for the reaction, since practically all the porphyrins and other reagents are well soluble in it, and, moreover, the reaction mixture in this case can be directly chromatographed without additional manipulations. The use of other solvents, THF or DMF, also leads to the positive results and may be applied in acylation of tetrakis(hydroxyphenyl)porphyrins, which are low-soluble in dichloromethane; but in this case the acylation proceeds considerably slower and, besides, these solvents require thorough laborious drying.

4-Dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) was used as a catalyst according to the literature.\(^\text{15-18}\) The acylation does not take place without it and its quantity plays a definite role. We have established, that its optimal molar ratio to porphyrin is about 0.5.

According to Scheme 4 it is obvious, that the quantity of carbodiimide should be no less than one equivalent to one equivalent of acylated hydroxy group. We have observed that quantity of carbodiimide must be 1.5-2 times higher, perhaps due to the presence of residual water in the solvent.

Acylation was carried out sequentially by interaction of carbodiimide with an acid upon cooling to 0 °C for 1.5 hours, and then at room temperature. The reaction process was controlled by thin layer chromatography. It turns out, that the reaction completion requires about 3 hours, but the reaction time is increased in the case of \( \text{ortho} \)-hydroxyphenylporphyrins and tetrakis(hydroxyphenyl)porphyrins or when using low active carboxylic acids are used for acylation. The reaction process without preliminary cooling decreases the yield of acylated porphyrin approximately in two times. If the reaction is carried out under reflux, the yield of the acylated porphyrin is lowered because of the formation of by-products.

The yields of the acylated porphyrins are increased when going from \( \text{meso} \)-phenyl substituted hydroxyphenylporphyrins \( \text{1 to } \beta \)-alkyl substituted porphyrins \( \text{2} \), the reaction time being increased. The position of hydroxy group in phenyl ring only slightly influences on the yield of acylated porphyrins.

It is interesting that tetrakis (hydroxyphenyl)porphyrins are not fully acylated and form a mixture of acylated species. The relative yield of tetraacylated porphyrin is increased neither with elongation of the reaction time nor at higher molar ratio of acylating mixture to the porphyrin.

Change of aliphatic carboxylic acid on the aromatic one leads to the significant increase of the acylation reaction yield, perhaps because of increasing stability of the obtained porphyrin ester to hydrolysis. Analogously, one can explain the yield decreasing and reaction rime elongation in acylation of hydroxyphenylporphyrins \( \text{1 (para)} \) and \( \text{2 (para)} \) by \( N \)-BOC protected aminoacids.

In the \( \text{H} \) NMR spectra of the synthesized porphyrins \( \text{4 (ortho)} \), \( R = (\text{CH}_2)_\text{Br} \) and \( \text{5 (ortho)} \), \( R = (\text{CH}_2)_\text{Br} \) the slight downfield shift and the full splitting of the methylene signals of the acyl unit are observed that is caused by the ring current of porphyrin fragment.

**Experimental**

UV-vis spectra were recorded on a scanning spectrometer SPEC SSP-715 in chloroform, IR spectra on a Avatar 360 FT-IR spectrophotometer in KBr tablets and \( \text{H} \) NMR spectra on a Bruker 500 MHz spectrometer in CDCl\(_3\) (internal standard TMS). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was made on Silufol® plates.

5-(4'-Hydroxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphine \( \text{1 (para)} \).

a) To a boiling solution of trifluoroacetic acid (4.0 ml, 53.8 mmol, ca. 2 %) in 300 ml of \( p \)-xylene the solution of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (2.2 g, 18.5 mmol), benzaldehyde (5.5 ml, 54.2 mmol) and pyrrole (5.0 ml, 72.2 mmol) in 50 ml of \( p \)-xylene was smoothly added under argon. The mixture was refluxed for 0.5 h under Ar and then 1 h in the presence of air, the solvent was

![Scheme 3](image-url)

**Scheme 3.**

![Scheme 4](image-url)

**Scheme 4.**

distilled off with water vapour, the residue was filtered, washed with water and dried at 70 °C. The mixture was dissolved in chloroform and chromatographed on Al2O3 (II Brockmann degree). The first fraction was eluted by chloroform, eluate was evaporated and the porphyrin was precipitated by methanol. Yield 1.1 g (10 %).

The second fraction was rinsed by chloroform-methanol mixture, evaporated to dryness, dissolved in CH2Cl2, and chromatographed on silica collecting the second fraction. The eluate was evaporated and the porphyrin was precipitated by petroleum ether. Yield 1.05 g (9.2 %).

b) To a boiling solution of trifluoroacetic acid (4.0 ml, 53.8 mmol, ca. 2 %) in 300 ml of p-xylene the solution of anisaldehyde (2.2 ml, 18.05 mmol), benzaldehyde (5.5 ml, 54.2 mmol) and pyrrole (5.0 ml, 72.2 mmol) in 20 ml of p-xylene was smoothly added under argon. The mixture was refluxed for 0.5 h under Ar and then 1 h in the air, the solvent was distilled off with water vapour, and the residue was filtered, washed with water and dried at 70 °C. The mixture was dissolved in chloroform and chromatographed on Al2O3 (II Brockmann degree). To the obtained solution boron tribromide (4.5 ml, 47.6 ml) was smoothly added at 0°C. The precipitate was dissolved in CH2Cl2 and chromatographed on silica. Eluate was evaporated and the pophyrin was precipitated by methanol. Yield 0.61 g (benzene-methanol, 10:1). UV-vis λmax nm (lgε): 649 (3.90), 592 (3.86), 552 (4.13), 419 (5.93). IR ν cm−1: 3600 (vOH), 3430 (δOH). 1H NMR δ ppm: 8.89 d (2H, β-H), 8.80 s (6H, 6'-H Ar), 8.76 m (9H, mp-H, Ph), 7.14 d (2H, 3, 5'-H Ar), 2.74 s (2H, NH).

5-(3'-Hydroxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphine (1, meta) was obtained analogously to method a. Yield 11%. Rf = 0.65 (benzene-methanol, 10:1). UV-vis λmax nm (lgε): 647 (3.72), 591 (3.85), 550 (3.95), 515 (4.33), 419 (5.85). IR ν cm−1: 3600 (vOH), 3430 (δOH). 1H NMR δ ppm: 8.91 d (2H, β-H), 8.60 m (6H, β-H), 8.23 d (6H, α-H-Ph), 7.83 d (1H, 6'-H Ar), 7.78 m (9H, mp-H, Ph), 7.76 s (1H, 2', 6'-H Ar), 7.65 t (1H, 5'-H Ar), 7.35 d (1H, 4'-H Ar), 2.76 s (2H, NH).

5-(2'-Hydroxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphine (1, ortho) was obtained analogously to method a. Yield 5.3%. Rf = 0.82 (benzene-methanol, 10:1). UV-vis λmax nm (lgε): 649 (3.77), 589 (3.81), 549 (3.89), 515 (4.29), 419 (5.85). IR ν cm−1: 3640 (vOH), 3450 (δOH). 1H NMR δ ppm: 8.89 d (2H, β-H), 8.88 m (6H, β-H), 8.22 m (6H, α-H-Ph), 8.02 d (1H, 6'-H Ar), 7.74 t (1H, 5'-H Ar), 7.70 m (9H, mp-H, Ph), 7.52 t (1H, 4'-H Ar), 7.36 d (1H, 3'-H Ar), 5.02 bs (1H, OH), -2.71 bs (2H, NH).

5-(4'-Hydroxyphenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,18-hexamethyl-13,17-di-n-amylporphine, 3 (para) and 5-(4'-Hydroxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphine, 4 (para, R = (CH2)10Br). A mixture of 5-(4'-hydroxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphine 1 (para) (50 mg, 0.080 mmol), 11-bromoundecanoic acid 15 (R = (CH2)10Br) (23 mg, 0.087 mmol), DMAP (6 mg, 0.048 mmol) and EDAC (23 mg, 0.119 mmol) in 15 ml of dry dichloromethane was stirred firstly at cooling in the ice bath for 1.5 hours, and then at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (3 hours, TLC), the solution obtained was chromatographed on silica by CH2Cl2, Eutate was evaporated and the porphyrin was precipitated by methanol.

The residue was filtered off, washed with methanol and dried at room temperature. Yield 50 mg (71.6 %). Rf = 0.64 (benzene). UV-vis λmax nm (lgε): 648 (3.92), 591 (3.89), 550 (4.00), 515 (4.31), 418 (5.69). IR ν cm−1: 1775 (O-CO). 1H NMR δ ppm: 8.99 s (8H, β-H), 8.25 d (8H, α-H-Ph + 2', 6'-H Ar), 7.90 m (9H, mp-H, Ph), 7.53 d (2H, 3', 5'-H), 3.46 t (2H, CH2O), 2.78 t (2H, CH2Br), 1.93
m (4H, CH₂), 1.48 m+1.40 m (12H, CH₂), -2.75 bs (2H, NH).
5-[4-(4'-amylporphine)-10,15,20-triporphine] (4, para, R = 4-CH₂O(CH₂)₂CH₂). A mixture of 5-[4-(4'-hydroxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triporphine] 1 (para) (50 mg, 0.080 mmol), 4-n-dodecyloxybenzoic acid 15 (R = 4-CH₂O(CH₂)₂CH₂) (49 mg, 0.160 mmol), DMAP (6 mg, 0.049 mmol) and EDAC (31 mg, 0.162 mmol) in 15 ml of dry dichloromethane was stirred firstly in an ice bath for 1.5 hours, and then at room temperature till the reaction completion (ca. 3 hours, TLC). The product was isolated by chromatography over silica (elucent CH₂Cl₂). The solvent was distilled off on a rotary evaporator; the residue was precipitated by methanol. Yield 51 mg (74.7 %). R₉ = 0.79 (benzene). UV-Vis λ max (lgε): 624 (3.62), 571 (3.92), 537 (3.95), 503 (4.24), 403 (5.34). IR v cm⁻¹: 1736 (-CO). 'H NMR δ ppm: 10.17 s (2H, 10,20-H), 9.97 s (1H, 15-H), 8.06 d (2H, 2',6'-H-Ar), 7.48 (2H, 3',5'-H-Ar), 4.05 t (4H, CH₂-Am), 3.65 s (6H, 12,18-CH₃), 3.55 s (6H, 2',6'-CH₃), 3.46 t (2H, COCH₂), 2.78 t (2H, CH₂Br), 2.53 s (6H, 3',7'-CH₃), 2.32 q (4H, CH₂-Am), 1.93 m (6H, CH₃, CH₂-Am), 1.75 qv (4H, CH₂-Am), 1.58 sc (4H, CH₂), 1.48 m (4H, CH₂), 1.41 m (10H, CH₂), 0.99 t (6H, CH₃-Am), -3.17 bs, -3.31 bs (2×1H, NH).
5-[3-(10'-Bromocarbonyloxyphenyl)]-10,7,12,18-hexamethyl-13,17-di-n-amylporphine 6 (meta, R = (CH₂)₂Br). A mixture of 5-[3-(hydroxyphenyl)]-2,3,7,8,12,18-hexamethyl-13,17-di-n-amylporphine (3) (para = CH₂NH-BOC, 66 mg, 0.080 mmol), 11-bromocadenoic acid (23 mg, 0.086 mmol), DMAP (6 mg, 0.048 mmol) and EDAC (23 mg, 0.120 mmol) in 15 ml of dry dichloromethane was stirred firstly in an ice bath for 1.5 hours, and then at room temperature till the reaction completion (ca. 3 hours, TLC). The product was isolated by chromatography over silica (elucent CH₂Cl₂). The solvent was distilled off on a rotary evaporator; the residue was precipitated by methanol. Yield 62.8 mg (90 %). R₉ = 0.86 (benzene). UV-Vis λ max (lgε): 623 (3.67), 571 (3.94), 537 (3.98), 503 (4.24), 403 (5.32). IR v cm⁻¹: 1758 (-CO). 'H NMR δ ppm: 10.18 s (2H, 10,20-H), 9.97 s (1H, 15-H), 7.94 d (1H, 6'-H-Ar), 7.82 s (1H, 2',6'-H-Ar), 7.74 t (1H, 5'-H-Ar), 7.53 d (1H, 4'-H-Ar), 4.05 t (4H, CH₂-Am), 3.65 s (6H, 12,18-CH₃), 3.56 s (6H, 2',6'-CH₃), 3.34 t (2H, COCH₂), 2.65 t (2H, CH₂Br), 2.58 s (6H, 3',7'-CH₃), 2.33 qv (4H, CH₂-Am), 1.76 m (6H, CH₂-Am, CH₃-Am), 1.57 sc (4H, CH₂), 1.44 m (2H, CH₂), 1.34 m (2H, CH₂), 1.27 m (10H, CH₂), 1.00 t (6H, CH₃-Am), -3.19 bs, -3.32 bs (2×1H, NH).
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isolated analogously the methodology, mentioned above. Yield 38 mg (52.4 %). \(R_f = 0.83\) (benzene-methanol, 10:1). UV-vis \(\lambda_{	ext{max}}\) nm (lge): 625 (3.61), 579 (3.82), 538 (3.94), 503 (4.21), 404 (5.30). IR v cm\(^{-1}\): 1631 (-O-C-O-). \(\nu\) NMR (CDCl\(_3\)): \(\delta\) ppm: 10.19 s (2H, 10,20-H), 9.99 s (1H, 15-H), 8.06 d (2H, 1-Hr), 7.44 m (7H, -m-Hr, Ph-Al), 5.25 d (1H, NH), 5.04 q (1H, CH), 3.95 t (4H, CH-Am), 3.66 s (6H, 12,18-CH\(_2\)), 3.56 s (6H, 2,8-CH\(_2\)), 3.44 d (2H, CH), 2.51 s (6H, 2,7-CH\(_2\)), 2.88 q (4H, CH-Am), 1.72 qv (4H, CH-Am), 1.53 m (4H, CH-Am), 1.55 s (9H, Bu), 0.98 t (6H, CH-Am), -3.26 bs (2H, NH).

5,10,15,20-Tetrakis[4'-(-10'-bromodecylcarbonyl)benzoyl]porphine (3). \(\text{R} \equiv (CH_2)_n\text{Br}\). a) A mixture of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis[4'-hydroxybenzoyl]porphine 2 (para) (50 mg, 0.073 mmol), 11-bromomendecanoic acid (86 mg, 0.325 mmol), DMAP (21 mg, 0.175 mmol) and EDAC (85 mg, 0.442 mmol) in 15 ml of dry dichloromethane was stirred at 0 \(^\circ\)C for 1.5 hours; then the reaction mixture was refluxed during 1 day because of a poor solubility of the initial porphyrin. The product was isolated analogously the methodology, mentioned above. Yield 20 mg (16.4 %).

b) A mixture of 5,10,15,20-tetrais(4'-hydroxibenzyloxy)porphine 2 (para) (50 mg, 0.073 mmol), 11-bromomendecanoic acid (86 mg, 0.325 mmol), DMAP (21 mg, 0.175 mmol) and EDAC (85 mg, 0.442 mmol) in 15 ml of dry dichloromethane was stirred at 0 \(^\circ\)C for 1.5 hours; then the reaction mixture was refluxed during 2 days because of a poor solubility of the initial porphyrin. The product was isolated analogously the methodology, mentioned above. Yield 20 mg (16.4 %).

References


