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ORGANIC REACTION MECHANISM

By: Shashi Gupta

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QUESTION PAPER

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(Solved)

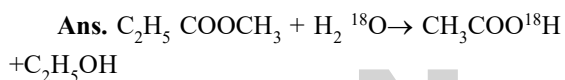
ORGANIC REACTION MECHANISM

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Answer all the five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. (a) Write the mechanism of the hydrolysis of ethyl acetate in presence of Base. Discuss the role of isotopic labelling in establishing its mechanism.



Also Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Isotopic Studies' and 'Isotopic Labelling'.

(b) Taking suitable examples, differentiate between stereospecific and stereoselective reactions.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, 'Stereospecific and Stereoselective Reactions'.

Q. 2. (a) Write the mechanism of the following using suitable example for each case.

(i) Wittig reaction

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 58, 'Wittig Reaction'.

(ii) Hydroboration

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 47, 'Concerted Addition Reaction' (Hydroboration).

(iii) Knoevenagel reaction

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 59, 'Knoevenagel Condensation'.

(b) Distinguish between Addition and Condensation polymerisation with the help of suitable examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 158, 'Addition and Condensation Polymers'.

Q. 3. (a) Write the mechanism of the following reactions:

(i) Backmann rearrangement

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 103, 'Backmann Rearrangement'.

(ii) Benzil-Benzilic acid rearrangement

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 101, 'Benzil-Benzilic Acid Rearrangement'.

(iii) Wagner-Mearwein rearrangement

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 97, 'Wagner-Mearwein Rearrangements'.

(b) Classify dyes on the basis of their application and give one example of each class.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 169-170, 'Classification of Dyes'.

Also Add: Classification of Dyes Based on methods of Application Acid Dyes.

Q. 4. (a) Draw resonating structures of the intermediates formed by *ortho*, *meta* and *para* attack of the electrophile on nitrobenzene. Explain why is *meta* attack favourable.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 32-33, 'Orientation and Reactivity in Aromatic Electrophilic Substitution'.

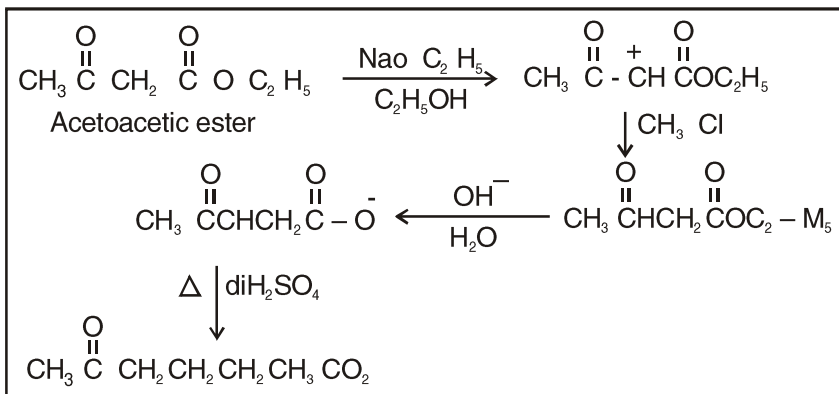
(b) Identify the alkene which on reaction with ozone followed by further reaction with Zn/H_2O , gives a mixture of butanone and ethanol. Write the reactions and explain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 48, 'Ozonolysis'.

Q. 5. (a) How will you convert:

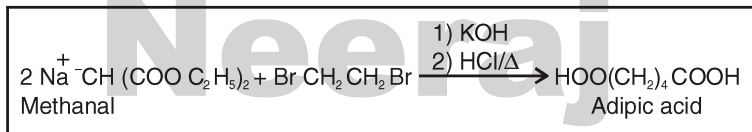
(i) Acetoacetic ester into 2-hexanone

Ans.



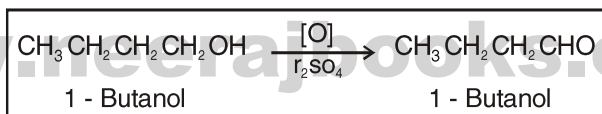
(ii) Malonic ester into adipic acid

Ans. Adipic acid can be obtained by treating malonate ion with 1,2-dibromoethane followed by hydrolysis and decarboxylation.



(iii) 1-Butanol into butanal

Ans. Oxidation of alcohols yield carbonyl compounds. Alcohols with λ -hydrogen takes place. Primary alcohols hydrogens takes place. Primary alcohols undergo direct oxidation to give carboxylic acid via the corresponding aldehyde by losing two hydrogen atoms.



(b) What are Benzyne? With its reference explain 'cine substitution'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 81, 'Benzyne'.

Q. 6. (a) What are different methods of generation of free radicals? Give one example for each method.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 87, 'Generation of Free Radicals'.

(b) Predict the product formed in the addition reactions of HBr with (i) propene and (ii) 2-propenenitrile. Write the mechanism of both the reactions.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 43, 'Electrophilic Addition Reaction of Alkenes' and 'Alkynes Addition of Hydrogen Halides'.

Q. 7. (a) Why do electrophilic substitutions generally take place at 2 and 5 positions in pyrrole? Explain.

Ans. Pyrrole undergoes electrophilic substitution at 2-position rather than 3-position. Due to its high reactivity and for the fact that pyrrole tends to polymerise in acidic solutions, electrophilic substitution at 2-position takes place because of stabilization by resonance.

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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ORGANIC REACTION MECHANISM

BASIC CONCEPTS AND SUBSTITUTIONS



Reaction Mechanism—Introduction

INTRODUCTION

In chemistry, a reaction mechanism is the step-by-step sequence of elementary reactions by which overall chemical change occurs. A chemical mechanism describes in detail exactly what takes place at each stage of an overall chemical reaction. It also describes each reactive intermediate activated complex and transition state and which bonds are broken and which bonds are formed. So a complete mechanism must also account for all reactants used. The function of a catalyst, stereochemistry, all products formed and the amount of each. It also describes the rate equation for the overall reaction. Reaction intermediates are chemical species. Often unstable and short lived, which are not reactants or products of the overall chemical reaction, but are temporary products and reactants in the mechanism's reaction steps. Reaction intermediates are often free radicals or ions. A knowledge of reaction mechanism is very important as these find applications in medicine, industry, textiles, household appliances, defence, space research etc.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

TYPES OF MECHANISM

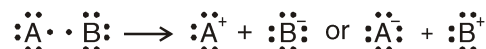
There is no limit to the number of possible organic reactions and mechanisms. Although certain general patterns are observed that can be used to describe many common reactions. Each reaction has a stepwise reaction mechanism that explains how it happens. The detailed description of steps is not always clear organic reactions can be organized into several basic types. Most of the

organic reactions are very slow as compared to inorganic reactions. For example, the reaction between hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide is instantaneous while the esterification of acetic acid by ethyl alcohol is a consuming reaction. This reaction takes place only if the reaction mixture is heated with a catalyst like sulphuric acid. Secondly, in organic reaction most of the part of reaction remains unchanged during reaction. So, we can say organic reaction takes place at the site of functional groups such as bromomethane, or sodium hydroxide which leave the rest of the molecule intact. e.g.



The stability of organic compounds is due to the existence of type of bonds. As organic compounds are covalently bounded and when reaction takes place these bonds may be broken and groups or atoms attached originally may be replaced by other groups. The cleavage of covalent bond may take place as follow:

(i) Bond heterolysis: When a covalent bond joining two atoms A and B breaks in such a way that both the electrons of the covalent bond are taken away by one of the bonded atoms. The mode of bond cleavage is called heterolysis.

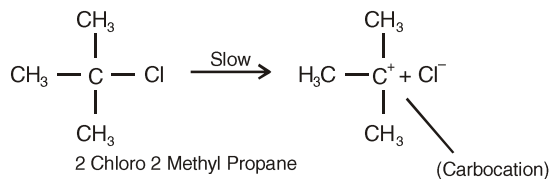


Heterolytic cleavage results in the formation of charged species. That is positively charged - cations and negatively charged anions.

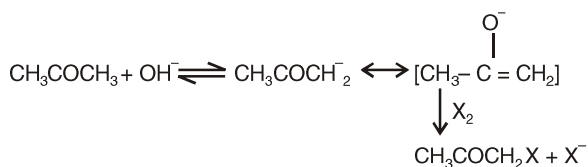
Chemical species bearing positive charge on carbon and carrying six electrons in its valence shell are called carbocation or carbonium ions. These are formed by heterolytic cleavage of the covalent bonds in which the

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leaving group takes away with it the shared pair of electrons. e.g.



But reaction of propanone on the other hand with halogens in the presence of a base takes place in different mechanism:



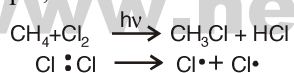
In this mechanism we get a species in which carbon atom bearing a negative charge and this species is called a carbanion.

In bond heterolysis, bonding electrons are determined by electronegativity of the constituent atoms. As carbon has very low electronegativity, so in heterolytic cleavage, it loses its share in the bond and thus become a part of the positively charged fragment. So, as an intermediates carbocations are very common while carbanions are rare.

(ii) Bond homolysis: If a covalent bond breaks in such a way that each atom takes away one electron of the shared pair. It is called bond homolysis.

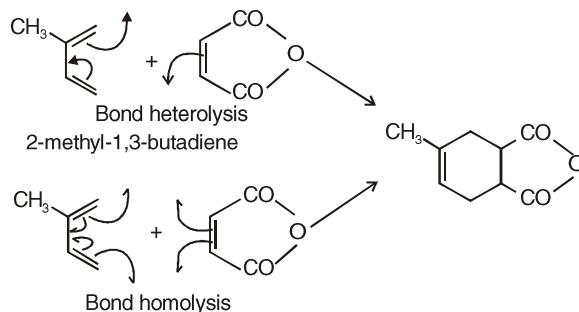


For example,



The neutral chemical species which contain an odd or unpaired electron and which are produced by homolytic break of covalent bonds and are called as free radicals. Therefore, chlorine radical is a neutral species. Homolytic break-up usually occurs in non-polar bonds and also favoured by high temperature ultraviolet (UV) radiations and by the presence of radical initiators. Because of the presence of unpaired electrons, free radicals are very reactive and these reactions which involve the formation of free radicals are said as free radical mechanism.

(iii) Pericyclic mechanism: In some reactions both bond cleavages are possible and form the same product. In such cases it is difficult to know whether it is heterolysis cleavage or homolytic cleavage. For example,



In this reaction, bond formation and bond breakage, both takes place simultaneously. These reactions are said to follow pericyclic mechanism.

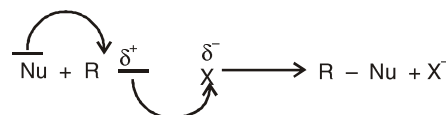
TYPES OF REAGENTS

In an organic reaction, the organic compound called the substrate reacts with a suitable attacking species called the reagent to form product. So organic reactions involve two reactants. An organic reaction substrate is that reactant which supplies carbon for the formation of a new bond while the other is reactant is called the reagent. If both the reactants supply carbon to the new bond, then it is impossible to know from where carbon atom come. During an organic reaction a covalent bond between two carbon atoms or a carbon and some other atom is broken and a new bond is formed.

On the basis of their electronic structure reagents can be broadly classified into the following types—nucleophiles which are attracted towards a positive centre, electrophiles which are attracted towards a negative centre free radicals with unpaired electrons on them and radical ions which are radicals with positive or negative charges.

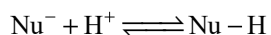
Nucleophiles

Nucleophiles are nucleus loving chemical species. Because the nucleus of any atom is positively charged, therefore nucleophiles must be electron rich chemical species containing at least one lone pair of electrons. These are attracted towards an electron deficient site in the substrate nucleophiles may be either negatively charged or neutral with at least one lone pair of electrons. Thus nucleophilic reaction is one which is initiated by a nucleophile.

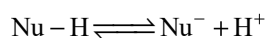


A nucleophile with negative charge is stronger than its conjugate acid like OH⁻ is a stronger nucleophiles than H₂O and NH₂⁻ is stronger than NH₃.

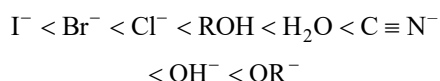
As both negative charged and neutral nucleophiles contain at least one unshared pair of electrons they have a strong tendency to donate this pair of electrons to electron deficient species as Lewis basis. Nucleophiles always attack the substrate molecule at the site of lowest electron density. Different nucleophiles have different basicity therefore strong bases are good reagents for nucleophilic substitution reactions. Reagents' ability to accept a proton in an acid-base reaction is its basicity measure.



which is characterized by an equilibrium constant, K_b

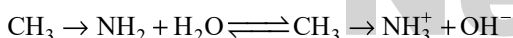


The increasing order of basicity of some reagent is

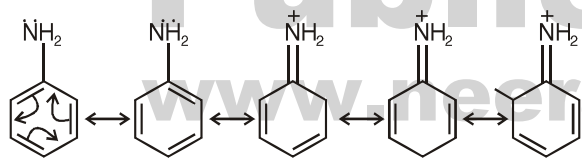


There are two important structural features affecting the basicity of a molecule:

(i) **Inductive effect:** Its effect of substituent or electron releasing effect increase basicity

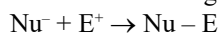


(ii) **Resonance:** It effects the base strength of an amine, because the availability of lone pair in case of aniline will be reduced due to the delocalization of the lone pair over the ring.



Electrophiles

These are electron loving chemical species. Their attraction for electron is due to the presence of an electron deficient atom in them. Electrophiles may be either positively charged or electrically neutral chemical species. These reagents attack electron rich centres or nucleophiles and form a bond during the reaction.



Since both positively charged and neutral electrophiles are short by a pair of electrons they have a strong tendency to attract electrons from other sources and behaves like a Lewis acids.

Free Radicals

Third type of reagent is free radicals which are formed during the course of a reaction. They are produced by homolytic cleavage of a covalent bond. Free radicals have high reactivity. Any atom or group

that possesses one or more unpaired electrons are free radical because they have an incomplete octet.

Radical Ions

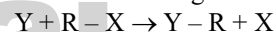
Radical ions are another type of reagents. Radical ions possess odd electrons which may carry a positive or negative charge with an odd collection. So, these are known as radical cations or radical anions.

TYPES OF REACTIONS

Depending upon the substrate, reagent and reaction conditions very unexpected and different products are formed. Involving bond making and bond breaking processes on carbon atoms of a substrate five main types of organic reactions takes place.

Substitution Reactions

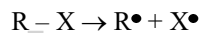
A substitution reaction is that which involves the direct replacement of an atom or group of atoms of an organic molecule by another atom or group of atoms that are provided by the reagent without change in the remaining part of the molecule. The product obtained as a result of substitution is called the substitution product. Let us see the following reaction:



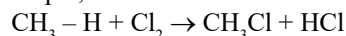
where $\text{R} - \text{X}$ and $\text{Y} - \text{R}$ are covalent molecules.

(i) **Free radical substitution:** Substitution reactions brought about by free radicals are called free radical substitution reaction.

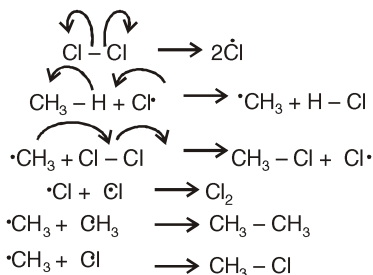
Firstly, the free radicals are produced and then they combine with other free radical to give substitution product.



For example,

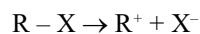


the reaction occurs by a free radical mechanism which involves the following steps:

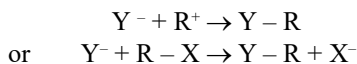


(ii) **Nucleophilic Substitution Reaction:**

Substitution reactions which are brought about by nucleophiles are called nucleophilic substitution reactions.

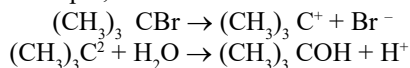


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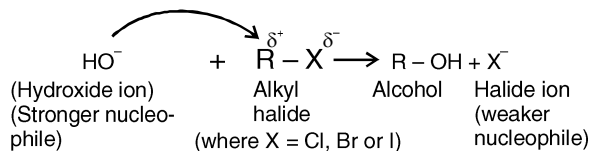


where reagent Y is a nucleophile and goes to electron deficient element.

For example,



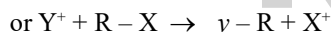
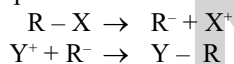
Mechanism is as follow:



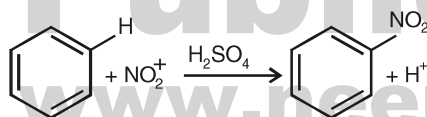
In these reactions, a stronger nucleophile displaces a weaker nucleophile. These reactions are typical of alkyl halides.

(iii) Electrophilic Substitution Reaction:

Substitution reactions which are brought about by electrophiles are called electrophilic substitution reactions. These reactions are typical of arenes and other aromatic compounds.

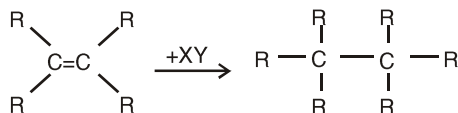


The reagent Y is an electrophile which has a high electron density.



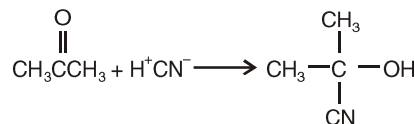
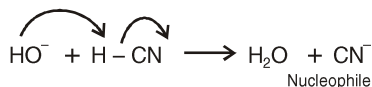
Addition Reactions

Reactions which involve combination between two reacting molecules to give a single molecule of the product are called addition reactions. Such reactions are typical of compounds containing multiple either double or triple bonds. These reactions mostly take place in alkenes and alkynes.

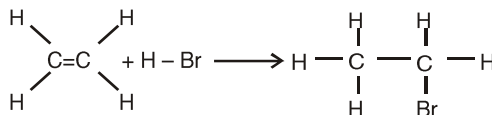


Depending upon the nature of the reagent, that is electrophile, nucleophile or free radical addition reactions are of different types.

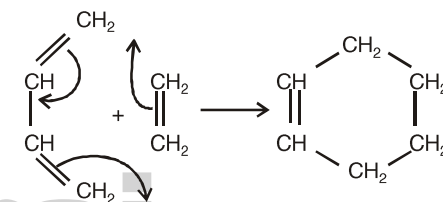
For example,



Nucleophilic addition reactions take place in double bond molecules with hetero atoms.



Electrophilic addition reactions and free radical reactions take place in alkenes and alkynes, when bond breaking and addition to the double bond takes place simultaneously, this type of addition reaction is known as pericyclic addition, e.g.

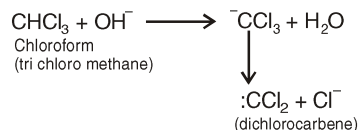


Elimination Reactions

An elimination reaction is one that involves the loss of two atoms or groups of atoms from the same or adjacent atoms of a substance leading to the formation of a multiple either double or triple bond.

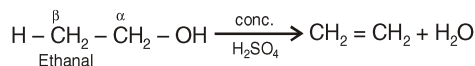


When in the reaction, the loss of two atoms or groups occurs from the same atom of the substrate molecule, it is called (1, 1) or α -elimination.



Dichlorocarbene is the reactive and an unstable intermediate.

When in the reaction the loss of two atoms or groups occurs from the adjacent atoms of the substrate molecule, it is called (1, 2) or β -elimination.



e.g.,

