

Chem 342 • Organic Chemistry II

Lecture Summary 26 - 17 Apr 2009

Chapter 21 - Carboxylic Acid Derivatives and Nucleophilic Acyl Substitution Acid Chlorides

Recall from last lecture that we can make acid chlorides from acids with thionyl chloride.

Preparation of Acid Chlorides

The most reactive and versatile derivative, acid chlorides can be used to make many acid derivatives.

Reactions of Acid Chlorides

Use 2 equiv. of amine or 1 equiv. amine and 1 equiv. of pyridine as base.

Acid Anhydrides

Anhydrides can be made from readily available inexpensive acids by heating to drive off the water. This is pretty much limited to simple acids like acetic acid and diacids. If an unsymmetric anhydride is desired, a more controlled reaction is required to avoid statistical mixtures of products. Acid halides can be reacted with carboxylate salts to form unsymmetric anhydrides with complete control.

Acid Anhydrides

Anhydrides will react very similar to acid chlorides. They are less reactive than acid chlorides which makes handling them easier. Usually we use anhydrides when we need to introduce simple, readily available acyl groups like acetyl.

Preparation of Esters

As we have seen, esters can be prepared by alcoholysis of acid chlorides and anhydrides. But some of the more common simple esters can be made directly from the carboxylic acid. The preparation of esters from acids is limited, however. A deprotonated acid (carboxylate) will react with methyl or primary alkyl halides via a S_N2 reaction.

