A Selective, Efficient and Environmentally Friendly Method for the Oxidative Cleavage of Glycols

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General methods: All reactions were assembled under air atmosphere unless otherwise noted. All common reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without any further purification. Non-commercially available glycols were prepared by known procedures for the pinacol coupling.¹ TLC was performed on aluminum-backed plates coated with silica gel 60 with F₂₅₄ indicator; the chromatograms were visualized under ultraviolet light and/or by staining with a Ce/Mo reagent and subsequent heating. NMR spectra were measured on Varian Mercury-Plus 300 MHz and Varian Inova-400 MHz spectrometers. GC-MS were recorded on an Agilent 6890N/5973 Network GC System, equipped with a HP-5MS column. Products were characterized by NMR spectroscopy² and capillary gas chromatography (GC). The microwave heating was performed in a microwave reactor (CEM Discover S-Class) with a single-mode microwave cavity producing continuous irradiation (temperature measurements were conducted using an IR sensor located below the microwave cavity floor, and reaction times refer to the total hold time at the indicated temperature. The maximum wattage supplied was 300 W).

Preparation of catalysts: MoO₂Cl₂(L)₂; Typical Procedure:³

The catalysts can be prepared as previously reported⁴ or more readily as follows:

To a solution of powdered Na₂MoO₄·2H2O (2.42 g, 10 mmol) in H₂O (5 mL), concd HCl (8.3 g, ca. 100 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10–15 min resulting in a colorless solution along with a significant amount of crystallized NaCl. Then Et₂O (15 mL) was added with stirring and the mixture vigorously shaken for 1–2 min. The upper Et₂O layer was collected and the extraction process repeated twice more. The combined ethereal extract was stirred for 15 min with anhydrous MgSO₄ (2 g). The solution was collected by filtration and the MgSO₄ was washed with Et₂O (3 × 3 mL).

(a) Synthesis of $MoO_2Cl_2(dmf)_2$: The resulting solution, containing approximately 98% of the original molybdenum, was treated with a solution of DMF (1.54 g, 21 mmol) in

¹ (a) C. Wang, Y. Pan, A. Wu, *Tetrahedron* 2007, **63**, 429; (b) J. M. Khurana, A. Sehgal, A. Gogia, A. Manian, G. C. Maikap, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans.* 1 1996, 2213.

² Spectroscopic data of the synthesized carbonyl compounds were identical to those of commercially available samples.

³ (a) F. J. Arnáiz, R. Aguado, M. R. Pedrosa and A. De Cian, *Inorg. Chim. Acta* 2003, **347**, 33; (b) R. Sanz, J. Escribano, R. Aguado, M. R. Pedrosa, F. J. Arnáiz, *Synthesis* 2004, 1629.

⁴ F. J. Arnáiz, *Inorg. Synth.* 1997, **31**, 246.

 Et_2O (10 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 min and the white microcrystalline precipitate filtered, washed with Et_2O (3 × 3 mL) and dried under vacuum. Yield: 3.37 g (97.5%).

(b) Synthesis of $MoO_2Cl_2(dmso)_2$: The resulting solution was treated with a solution of DMSO (1.64 g, 21 mmol) in Et₂O (10 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 min and the white microcrystalline precipitate filtered, washed with Et₂O (3 × 3 mL) and dried under vacuum. Yield: 3.45 g (97%).

General procedure for the oxidative cleavage of glycols and oxidation of

acyloins: A mixture of DMSO (6 equiv), the corresponding glycol or acyloin (1 equiv), and $MoO_2Cl_2(dmso)_2$ (2 mol%) was irradiated in a sealed tube in the microwave cavity at the reported temperature for the required time (see Tables 1-2 and Scheme 4). For reactions carried out in DMSO-d₆ the crude mixture was analyzed by NMR after cooling to room temperature. For the experiments performed in DMSO and for calculating the yield, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and an ethereal solvent (Et₂O or cyclopentyl methyl ether) (5 mL) and H₂O (5 mL) were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with the ether (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water to completely remove the excess of DMSO, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and then the solvents were analyzed by NMR.

Recycling study for the oxidative cleavage of 2,3-diphenylbutane-2,3-

diol: A mixture of DMSO-d₆ (1 mL, ~15 mmol), 2,3-diphenylbutane-2,3-diol (242 mg, 1 mmol) and MoO₂Cl₂(dmso)₂ (7 mg, 2.0 mol%) was irradiated in a sealed tube in the microwave cavity at 130 °C for 10 min. After cooling to room temperature, the crude mixture was analyzed by NMR and then extracted with a 10:1 mixture of cyclopentyl methyl ether and *n*-heptane (2 × 1 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (0.3 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and then the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. Acetophenone was obtained in almost pure form without further purification in the yields reported in Scheme 1. The DMSO-phase containing the catalyst was reused in the next cycle by adding a new batch of diol dissolved in 0.2 mL of DMSO-d₆.

E-factors calculations for the oxidative cleavage of 2,3-diphenylbutane-

2,3-diol: The E-factor is the ratio between the total mass of the waste and the mass of the product. In our calculations the solvents employed in the purification were considered. We calculate the E-factor for the cleavage of 2,3-diphenylbutane-diol for both the conventional process (Table 2, entry 4) and the recycling experiment (Scheme

1).

Conventional process:		Recycling process:	
Reactant/Reagent	Mass (g)	Reactant/Reagent (5 cycles)	Mass (g)
2,3-diphenylbutane-2,3-diol	0.242	2,3-diphenylbutane-2,3-diol	1.21
DMSO (0.4 mL)	0.44	DMSO (1 mL + 0.2 mL x 4)	1.98
MoO ₂ Cl ₂ (dmso) ₂	0.007	MoO ₂ Cl ₂ (dmso) ₂	0.007
Et ₂ O (15 mL)	10.7	cyclopentyl methyl ether (9.1 mL)	7.826
		n-heptane (0.9 mL)	0.616
Total	11.389	Total	11.639
Acetophenone (93% yield)	0.223	Acetophenone (79% av. yield)	0.953
Total waste	11.166	Total waste	10.686
E factor	50.1	E factor	11.2



NMR spectra of reactions of dichlorodioxomolydenum(VI)



NMR spectra of crude reaction mixtures of the recycling study before extraction



Recycling experiment: Cycle 1

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)



— 2.53

– 3.61



Recycling experiment: Cycle 2

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)









NMR spectra of crude products in Tables 1-2 and Schemes 1 and 4

.82	.58 .58 .58 .58 .58 .58 .58 .47 .47 .32 .14
$\langle \rangle$	



7.79 7.75	7.53 7.51 7.45 7.42 7.38
17	51122





83	59 57 57 50 50 49 49 70 29 118
52	



7.75 7.75 7.56 7.50 7.50 7.45 7.45 7.45

7.69 7.66 7.57 7.55 7.55 7.48 7.48 7.48

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)

7.56 7.56 7.59 7.59 7.57 7.45 7.45

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)

	7.74 7.71 7.55 7.55 7.55 7.55 7.55 7.55 7.55	5.72	
Table 1, Entry 9			

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)

Tabla 1 Entry 10	7.76 7.75 7.55 7.45 7.45 7.44 7.22 7.22 7.22 7.12 7.12 7.12 7.12 7.12	5.84	5.47
Table 1, Entry 10			

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)

Scheme 1, R = H





Table 2, Entry 4

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)



— 2.47













































Table 2, Entry 15

¹H-NMR (dmso-d₆, 300 MHz)



— 2.02













Table 2, Entry 18

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)















Table 2, Entry 21

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)






Table 2, Entry 22

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)







Table 2, Entry 23























Scheme 4













 $\underset{7.65}{\overbrace{7.65}}$

10.0

< 6.64 < 6.62

1.C 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 5.5 f1 (ppm) 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 9.5 9.0 6.0



Scheme 4

 $\mathbf{R}^1 = \mathbf{R}^2 = 2\text{-Th}$

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)







Scheme 4

 $\mathbf{R}^1 = \mathbf{R}^2 = 2\text{-}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{h}$

¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.4 MHz)



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Selection of GC-MS chromatograms and spectra

















