Supporting Information

Nano-K₂CO₃: preparation, characterization and evaluation of reactive activities

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1. General experimental

All commercially reagents were used without further purification. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Advance II 500 instrument at 500 and 126 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts were given as δ values (ppm), with tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Coupling constants (*J*) were given in Hertz (Hz). The particle size of nano-K₂CO₃ was measured using a laser particle size analyzer (Zetasizer Nano S90, Malvern Instruments Ltd.). CO₂-TPD was measured with Chemisorb 2720 automatic chemical adsorption apparatus (Micromeritics Instrument Corp). Nano-K₂CO₃ was prepared using GZM-5 High Frequency Resonant Grinding Machine (Beijing More Open Source Technology Development Ltd., Beijing, China) (47.8 Hz) and was observed by scanning electronic microscopy (SEM) performed on a LEO 1530VP instrument.

2. Preparation of nano-K₂CO₃

Anhydrous K_2CO_3 (150 g), absolute ethanol (63 mL), and lauric acid (0.435 g) were poured into a resonance mill. The mixture was milled at room temperature for 8 h and then directly used for the next reaction.



Fig. 1 Particle size distribution of nano-K₂CO₃

3. Typical procedure for the alkylation of active methylene compounds



Diethyl 2-(3-chloropropyl)malonate Nano-K₂CO₃ (1.3 mol, 179.7 g) and a solution of diethyl malonate (1.0 mol, 160.2 g) and 1-bromo-3-chloropropane (1.1 mol, 173.2 g) in absolute ethanol(500 mL) was added to a round-bottomed flask provided with a water-cooled reflux condenser and a thermometer. The mixture was heated to 65 °C on oil bath and stirred for 8 h. The reaction was monitored by GC. The mixture was filtered and distilled to collect the product 205.9 g, yield 87.5%, bp 156-158 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 1.81 ~ 1.87 (m, 2H), 2.01~ 2.06(m, 2H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.63(t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.19 ~ 4.26(m, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ 14.5, 27.2, 31.3, 45.2, 49.3, 62.5, 170.7.

The other monoalkylated products were prepared similarly according to the procedure used for Diethyl 2-(3-chloropropyl)malonate.

Diethyl 2-propylmalonate bp 109-113 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃Cl₃, 500 MHz): δ 0.94 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 1.37 ~ 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.85 ~ 1.90 (m, 2H), 3.33 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.17 ~ 4.21 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 13.6, 14.0, 20.5, 30.7, 51.8, 61.2, 169.6.

Diethyl 2-ethylmalonate bp 101-103 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H),

1.27 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.90 ~ 1.96(m, 2H), 3.25(t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H) 4.17 ~ 4.22(m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 30.5, 61.9, 126.7, 128.5, 129.2, 135.7, 150.7, 162.2.

COOEt

COOEt

Diethyl 2-butylmalonate bp 121-124 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃Cl₃, 500MHz): δ 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.27(t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 1.29 ~ 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.87 ~ 1.92(m, 2H), 3.31(t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 ~ 4.23(m, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 13.8, 14.1, 22.3, 28.4, 29.4, 52.1, 61.2, 169.2.

COOEt

COOEt

Diethyl 2-benzylmalonate bp 170-172 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃, 500MHz): δ 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 4.0Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.12 ~ 4.20 (m, 4H), 7.18 ~ 7.21(m, 3H), 7.25 ~ 7.28(m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 13.9, 34.7, 53.8, 61.4, 126.7, 128.5, 128.8, 137.9, 168.8.

Diethyl 2-(5-chloropentyl)malonate bp 160-162 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃, 500MHz): δ 1.26 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 1.33 ~ 1.37 (m, 2H), 1.45 ~ 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.75 ~ 1.81(m, 2H), 1.88 ~ 1.93(m, 2H), 3.32 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.53(t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.18 ~ 4.22(m, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 14.5, 26.4, 26.5, 28.4, 32.2, 44.8, 51.9, 61.3, 169.4.

COOEt

Ethyl 3-cyano-3-phenylpropanoate bp 178-181°C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 1.19(t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 2.35 ~ 2.65 (m, 4H), 3.37 ~ 3.64 (m, 1H), 4.12 ~ 4.19 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.06 ~ 7.269(m, 5H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125MHz): δ 13.9, 36.9, 40.1, 61.715, 117.6, 126.7, 128.4, 128.8, 137.9, 169.5.



2-Phenylbutanenitrile bp 124-126 °C /16 mmHg; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 1.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.90 ~ 2.02 (m, 2H), 3.74 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 ~ 7..29 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 11.5, 29.0, 38.9, 120.7, 127.3, 127.9, 135.0.



2-Ethylmalononitrile bp 109-112 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.98 ~ 2.06 (m, 2H), 3.35(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ 13.3, 18.2, 28.9, 117.6.



2-Propylmalononitrile bp 123-125 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.99 (t, J = 7.5Hz, 3H), 1.35(m, 2H), 1.93 ~ 2.01(m, 2H), 3.39(t, J = 8.0Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125MHz): δ 13.4, 14.3, 18.3, 28.9, 117.7.



2-ButyImalononitrile bp 129-132 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.5Hz, 3H), 1.29 ~ 1.35 (m, 4H), 1.93 ~ 2.01(m, 2H), 3.31(t, *J* = 7.5Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125MHz): δ 13.5, 14.0, 18.5, 25.9, 27.1, 117.7.

Ethyl 2-cyano-3-phenylpropanoate bp 165-173 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃, 500MHz): δ 1.26 (t, J = 7.5Hz, 3H), 3.19(dd, J = 11.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.29(dd, J = 11.0, 5.0Hz, 1H), 3.71(m, 1H), 4.23(q, J = 7.5Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 125MHz): δ 14.1, 31.2, 36.9, 61.3, 117.6, 126.7, 128.3, 128.8, 136.9, 169.7.



Ethyl 2-cyanopentanoate bp 111-113°C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.0Hz, 3H), 1.31 ~ 1.37(m, 5H), 1.85 ~ 1.90 (m, 2H), 3.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.17 ~ 4.22(m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ 13.6, 14.0, 20.5, 32.7, 34.6, 61.2, 117.7, 169.6.



Ethyl 2-cyanohexanoate bp 133-135°C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.25 ~ 1.69 (m, 7H), 1.89 ~ 2.01 (m, 2H), 3.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 ~ 4.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ 13.7, 14.1, 20.5, 23.9, 28.6, 30.9, 33.5, 61.2, 117.7, 169.6.



Ethyl 2-acetyloctanoate bp 159-162 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.91(t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.25 ~ 1.69 (m, 11H), 1.89 ~ 2.09 (m, 5H), 3.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 ~ 4.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ 12.1, 14.6, 18.2, 20.1, 21.1, 28.7, 29.8, 34.6, 59.7, 61.2, 169.5, 201.3.



Ethyl 2-acetylhexanoate bp 133-135 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.91(t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.25 ~ 1.69 (m, 7H), 1.90 ~ 2.01 (m, 2H), 3.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 ~ 4.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ13.7, 14.1, 20.5, 21.9, 24.5, 30.1, 59.7, 61.2, 169.5, 201.3.



Ethyl 2-ethyl-3-oxobutanoate bp 93-96 °C/16 mmHg; ¹H NMR(CD₃OD, 500MHz): δ 0.93 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.89 ~ 2.01 (m, 2H), 3.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 ~ 4.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CD₃OD, 125 MHz): δ 13.7, 14.0, 19.0, 24.5, 59.1, 61.2, 169.5, 201.3.



4. Typical procedure for the oximation of β -dicarbonyl compounds (Table 4, entry10)



Ethyl 2-(hydroxyimino)-3-phenylpropanoate Nano-K₂CO₃ (0.5 mol, 69.1 g) was added to a solution of diethyl 2-benzylmalonate (0.2 mmol, 50.1 g) in ethanol (200 mL). Then, the mixture was cooled to 10 °C. Then, a solution of sodium nitrite (0.3 mmol, 20.7 g) in water (100 mL) or ethanol (14 mL) was placed in a 500 mL one-port flask. A solution of sulfuric acid (0.15 mol, 15 g) in water (200 mL) and ethanol (10 mL) was slowly added dropwise to generate ethyl nitrite. Ethyl nitrite was introduced into the reactor through a drying tube. Stirring was maintained for 5 h at a low temperature after adding the sulfuric acid solution. The reaction mixture was filtered and then concentrated to remove ethanol. Cold water (30 mL) was added to the residue, and solution pH was adjusted to 5 with cold hydrochloric acid (0.5 M). The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 50 mL), and the organic phase was dried with anhydrous MgSO₄. Ethyl acetate was removed under reduced pressure to yield crude prduct. Pure product was obtained by recrystallization using ethyl acetate and hexane. Yield: 39.2 g, yellow solid (94.5%). mp 56 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.0Hz, 3H), 4.00 (s, 2H), 4.30 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22~7.35 (m, 5H), 9.66 (br, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 30.5, 61.9, 126.7, 128.5, 129.2, 135.7, 150.7, 162.2.

The other oximes were prepared similarly according to the procedure used for Ethyl 2-(hydroxyimino)-3phenylpropanoate

Ethyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)propanoate mp 96-98 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.31 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.92 (s,2H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 10.30 (br, 1H); ¹³CNMR (125 MHz,CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 29.9, 62.1, 120.6, 130.9, 131.6, 134.7, 150.3, 163.1.



Methyl 2-(hydroxyimino)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.69 (s, 3H),4.04 (s, 2H),7.29~7.34 (m, 3H), 7.62~7.66 (m, 4H),10.36 (br, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 30.8, 52.9, 125.7, 126.1, 127.5, 127.6, 127.7, 128.3, 132.4, 133.1, 133.6, 150.8, 163.8.

Ethyl 2-(hydroxyimino)-2-phenylacetate mp 102-104 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): δ 1.30 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H),4.29 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H),7.37 \sim 7.43 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD): δ 12.9, 61.4, 127.4, 128.8, 128.9, 129.8, 149.2, 164.4.

Diethyl 2-(hydroxyimino)malonate ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): δ 1.37 (q, 6H),4.31 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 12.9, 13.0, 61.5, 61.7, 143.3, 159.0, 159.6; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₇H₁₁NO₅ [M+H] ⁺ 190.0637, found: 190.0731.

Ethyl 2-(hydroxyimino)-3-oxobutanoate ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): δ 1.30 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ,2.35 (s, 3H),

4.30 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD): δ 13.1, 23.8, 61.5, 150.9, 162.3, 194.2 ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₆H₉NO₄ [M+H] ⁺ 160.0536, found: 160.0609.



Ethyl 2-(Hydroxyimino)-3- (4-methoxy phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate mp 112-114 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 4.31 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 9.52 (br, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 55.8, 62.7, 114.5, 127.5, 131.9, 149.8, 161.0, 165.1, 188.4.

5. Regeneration of nano-K₂CO₃

After oximation reaction completion, the mixture were filtered and washed with ethanol(3×30 mL). The filter was calcined in muffle at 250 °C for 4 hours to generate normal K₂CO₃ with ≥95% yield. The normal K₂CO₃ was milled as the procedure of preparation of nano-K₂CO₃ to generate product with average particle size of 64 nm.

6. Copies of GC spectra, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of typical compounds



GC spectra of the reaction mixture of 1-bromo-3-chloropropane with diethyl malonate





GC spectrum of the mixture after reacting for 8 h

¹H and ¹³C spectra of monoalkylated products













liu shou xin 5-C-W







¹H and ¹³C spectra of oximes

















