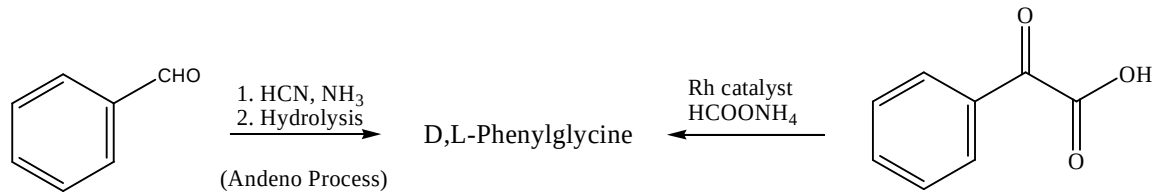
PRACTICAL PROBLEMS

PROBLEM 1 (Practical)

The Synthesis of D,L-Phenylglycine and Its Enantiomeric Resolution

One of the enantiomeric forms of phenylglycine is an important raw material for the preparation of β-lactam antibiotics. Industrial production of optically active phenylglycine is prepared by the Andeno process. The starting benzaldehyde was treated with HCN/NH_3 following hydrolysis to give the racemic D,L-phenylglycine. The desired enantiomeric phenylglycine was then resolved by (+)-camphorsulfonic acid [(+)-CSA].



Benzaldehyde D,L-phenylglycine Benzoylformic acid

In this experiment, you are going to synthesize racemic D,L-phenylglycine (also referred to as *R*- and *S*-isomers, respectively) from an alternative method called reductive amination. Treatment of benzoylformic acid under Rh metal catalyzed conditions gives D,L-phenylglycine. The racemic D,L-phenylglycine is resolved by the treatment of (+)-CSA in water. The solubility of D-phenylglycine•(+)-CSA salt is 5.75 g/100g H_2O, while that of L-phenylglycine•(+)-CSA salt is >150 g/100g H_2O at 25 ℃. The chemical yield and the optical purity of the diastereomeric salt will be measured.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Step 1. Preparation of D,L-phenylglycine

The following pre-weighted chemicals can be used directly without further weighing: Benzoylformic Acid; Ammonium Formate; Rh Catalyst; (+)-camphorsulfonic acid [(+)-CSA].

1. To a 50 mL round-bottomed flask is added a magnetic stirring bar, pre-weighed (approximate 1.80 g, exact mass will be on your sample bottle, write down the mass

on your answer sheet and get the lab assistant to confirm the weight.) of benzoylformic acid (NOTE: irritant, do not contact with skin), 7.57 g of ammonium formate (HCO_2NH_4), 37.2 mg of Rh catalyst (NOTE: the catalyst is wrapped in a weighing paper in a plastic bag. Handle with care!) and 22 cm^3 of the pre-mixed solvents at ambient temperature.

2. Put a reflux condenser (use the Teflon sleeve; you can trim off 1 cm from the smaller end for a better fit) into the neck of the flask and plug the condenser with a septum. For pressure equilibration, put a needle in the septum before starting the heating. Clamp the apparatus tightly to the stand in your hot plate/stirrer. Put the flask onto a hot water bath [hot water provided by the organizer] and stir the reaction mixture gently. (NOTE: the solvent is air cooled, so there is no tap water running through the condenser.) The temperature of the water bath needs to be maintained in the range of 68 to 72 ℃ by adjusting the thermostat of the h ot plate/stirrer.
3. The mixture will become cloudy and the color of the solution will change from clear yellowish to dark-greenish when the product starts to precipitate (generally requiring 25 ~ 35 minutes). The hot water bath should then be removed and the solution allowed to stir in the water bath (ambient temperature) for an additional 10 minutes.
4. Add 15 cm^3 of deionized water to the resulting mixture and stir for 10 minutes.
5. Pre-weigh the bigger fritted glass funnel (labelled with your student code), and get the lab assistant to confirm the weight. Use the stir bar retriever to remove the stir bar. Collect the product by filter suction through a fritted glass funnel under a reduced pressure (rotary aspirator apparatus). Wash the solid four times thoroughly with ethanol (10 cm^3 each). For each washing, **break the aspirator pressure**, use a glass rod to perturb the solid when adding ethanol, and reapply the rotary aspirator.
6. For rapid drying, you have to spread the product over the fritted glass funnel. For drying, give the fritted glass funnel to the lab assistant. The product is dried in the oven at 100 ℃ for 1.5 hour.

During the drying period you can start working on Experiment 2 (analytical experiment) and you will be notified when your product is ready. Step 2 of experiment 1 will need at least 1 hour.

7. Weigh the dried product [(D,L)-phenylglycine], record the data and calculate the chemical yield (based on the starting benzoylformic acid). Get the lab assistant to confirm the weight. The purity of the product will be determined by ^1H NMR spectrum

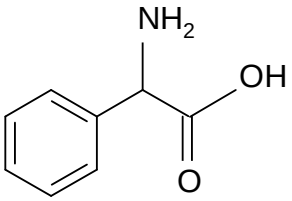
analysis. Turn in the product in a vial (**blue label** with ^{1}H NMR and your student code) to the lab assistant, and receive a new batch of D,L-phenylglycine for step 2.

Step 2. Enantiomeric Resolution of D,L-phenylglycine by (+)-Camphorsulfonic Acid [(+)-CSA]

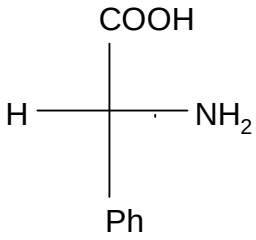
1. To a 25 cm^3 round-bottomed flask add the pre-weighed sample of D,L-phenylglycine provided (The exact mass will be on your sample bottle, write down the mass on your answer sheet and get the lab assistant to confirm the weight). To this, add the pre-weighed (+)-camphorsulfonic acid [(+)-CSA] (1.80 g). Clamp the apparatus tightly to a stand in a magnetic stirrer. Add deionized water (4 cm^3) and place the flask in a hot water bath and heat it to a temperature in the range of 90 ~ 100 ℃. Keep the mixture at this temperature for 10 minutes until it turns clear.
2. Remove the hot water bath and allow the mixture to cool down to ambient temperature for 10~15 minutes. With the flask plugged with a septum, cool the flask in ice bath (Styroform) for 15 minutes. Crystals should appear in about 20 minutes, if not, you may ask for seed crystals to induce the crystallization.
3. Pre-weigh the smaller fritted glass funnel (labelled with your student code), and get the lab assistant to confirm the weight. Collect the product by filtering the solution through a fritted glass funnel under a reduced pressure. Wash the solid thoroughly two times with ice cooled distilled water (5 cm^3 each).
4. For drying, give the fritted glass funnel to the lab assistant. The product will be dried over in oven at 100 ℃ for 20 min. You will be notified when your product is ready. Weigh the product, and get the lab assistant to confirm the weight. Record the data and calculate the chemical yield (based on starting D,L-phenylglycine).
5. The optical purity of the diastereomeric salt will be measured using an accurate polarimeter apparatus by the examination committee. Transfer the dried product to a sample vial (pink label labelled with $[\alpha]_D$ and your student code) and give the sample vial to the lab assistant**.** The organization committee will weigh an appropriate amount of the product (0.055 ~ 0.065g) for measurement of optical purity.

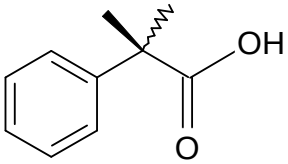
SOLUTION

1.4 Structural formula (A) and stereochemical formula (B) of the isolated phenylglycine: (Task appeared in the answer sheet only.)



A





B

PROBLEM 2 (Practical)

Identification of Unknown Inorganic Samples

Note

(1) This practical exercise is a kind of "spot test". You can do it on the pallet or on a sheet of black film (for white precipitate).

(2) Please check all items written in the equipment and reagent list.

(3) Please check carefully the code number of the unknown sample with the Check List accompanied with your unknown samples.

(4) The volume of each unknown solution is about 1.5 cm^3 (about 30 drops). No more reagents or samples will be provided.

(5) Be sure to confirm your results before writing your answers in the blanks of the Answer Sheet.

(6) Make sure the switch on the battery box is closed.

(7) You will get 8 points for each correct identification.

Introduction

There are 12 unknown samples in your plastic bag□9 unknown solutions are in droppers and 3 unknown solids are in vials. All unknown samples are numbered with a 3 digit code. Please check the number with the List of Unknown Inorganic Samples carefully, then write your student code, and name on the list. (The list is accompanied with your unknown samples) Each vial contains about 20 mg of crystals or powder of one pure compound. Each dropper contains about 1.5 cm^3 solution of one pure compound dissolved in distilled water. The concentration of unknown solutions is in the range of 0.05 to 0.5 M (mol dm^{-3}).

The unknown samples are as follows:

HCl	H_2O_2	H_2SO_4	$ZnCl_2$	NH_4SCN
NaOH	Na_2CO_3	Na_2SO_3	$BaCl_2$	$K_4Fe(CN)$

6

Note

1) Two unknown samples are duplicates.

2) The crystal water (. H_2O) is omitted in the formulas listed above.

2.1 Use the four reagents provided and mutual reactions among the unknown samples, and the simple electrolysis apparatus to identify each unknown sample, and write your answer (3 digit code) in the blanks of your answer sheet.

2.2 In this practical work, you have performed a series of tests to identify (or confirm) the unknowns. Show the reactions involved by way of chemical equations.

A. Write the electrolysis equation that would help you confirm that an unknown sample is $ZnCl_2$.

B. Write one equation that shows how to clean the deposit of Zn on the electrode (limited to the items provided in this task).

SOLUTION

2.2A $Zn^{2+}(aq) + 2\ Cl^{-}(aq) \rightarrow Cl_2(g)$ (anode) + Zn(s) (deposit on cathode)

2.2B $Zn(s) + 2\ H^{+}(aq) \rightarrow H_2(g) + Zn^{2+}(aq)$

or

$Zn(s) + 2\ OH^{-}(aq) + 2\ H_2O(l) \rightarrow H_2(g) + [Zn(OH)_4]^{2-}(aq)$