



## Oxidation of Benzaldehyde and Substituted Benzaldehydes by Permanganate under Phase Transfer Catalysis in non-Polar Solvents

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### ABSTRACT

Phase transfer catalysed oxidation of benzaldehyde and substituted benzaldehydes by permanganate ion have been studied in non-polar solvents like ethyl acetate and toluene. The obtained products were characterised by melting point determination and infrared spectral analysis. Benzoic acid and corresponding substituted benzoic acids were formed as the product with very high yield. The oxidation reactions were carried out by using various quaternary ammonium and phosphonium salts as phase transfer catalyst. The effect of non-polar solvents and various phase transfer catalysts on yield of product was also carried out.

**Keywords:** Benzaldehyde; Substituted benzaldehydes; Permanganate; Phase transfer catalysis; Phase transfer catalyst

### INTRODUCTION

Oxidation reactions using suitable oxidants are very important in synthetic organic chemistry and are employed for the synthesis of various organic compounds [1, 2]. Phase transfer catalysis (PTC) is relatively a new technique to carry out various reactions with high yield and under mild conditions [3-5]. Phase transfer catalysts (PT catalysts) are able to transfer the inorganic oxidant from aqueous phase to organic phase and the reaction takes place smoothly in the organic phase. Cost reduction and pollution prevention which are the driving force of a chemical industry today can be achieved by implementing PTC technique. There are reports on the synthesis of organic compounds by oxidation reactions using permanganate, chromate, hypochlorite etc. under PTC [6-10]. Kinetic studies of such type of oxidations using various oxidizing agents were also reported [11-16].

We have carried out the oxidation of benzaldehyde and substituted benzaldehydes using various quaternary ammonium and phosphonium salts as PT catalysts in non-polar solvents like ethyl acetate and toluene by permanganate ion. The substituted benzaldehydes used were 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 3-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 4-chlorobenzaldehyde, 3-chlorobenzaldehyde, 4-methoxybenzaldehyde, 3-methoxybenzaldehyde, 4-nitrobenzaldehyde, 3-nitrobenzaldehyde and 4-methylbenzaldehyde. The PT catalysts used were tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB), tetrabutylphosphonium bromide (TBPB), tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulphate (TBAHS) and cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTMAB)

### EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Analar grade potassium permanganate (Merck, India) was used in the entire work. Benzaldehyde (AR, Spectrochem, India) and the substituted benzaldehydes employed in the present work namely, 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 3-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 4-chlorobenzaldehyde, 3-chlorobenzaldehyde, 4-methoxybenzaldehyde, 3-methoxybenzaldehyde, 4-nitrobenzaldehyde, 3-nitrobenzaldehyde and 4-methylbenzaldehyde (Spectrochem, India Ltd. Mumbai and Merck KGaA, Germany) were used as such. Tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB), tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulphate (TBAHS) and cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTMAB) (Spectrochem India Ltd. Mumbai) and tetrabutylphosphonium bromide (Merck KGaA, Germany) were used as PT catalyst. The non-polar solvents toluene and ethyl acetate

were purified according to the standard procedure [17-18]. The purified solvents were refluxed for 1-2 hours with a mixture of PT catalyst and potassium permanganate and then distilled. Synthetic experiments were carried out under heterogeneous condition. Benzaldehyde and substituted benzaldehydes (0.1 mol) dissolved in 50 mL of toluene or ethyl acetate which contains 0.01 mol PT catalyst was mixed with 50 mL potassium permanganate (0.5 mol). The reaction mixture was kept at room temperature with mild stirring using a magnetic stirrer for about thirty minute. The organic layer was extracted with ether three times and the obtained organic layer was again extracted with 10% sodium bicarbonate. Both the organic and aqueous layers were separated and the aqueous layer was acidified with concentrated HCl. The white crystalline precipitate formed was filtered, dried and weighed. The recrystallised product was analysed by melting point determination and infrared spectral technique.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Stoichiometry of the oxidation was established by equilibrating known excess concentration of permanganate with known amount of benzaldehyde under PTC condition. It was found that three moles of benzaldehyde reacts with two moles of permanganate.



The product of oxidation under PTC condition was ascertained to be benzoic acid and corresponding substituted benzoic acids and the yield was found to be more than 90%. The recrystallised samples of products of oxidation were characterized by its melting point and are given in table 1. The obtained results of melting points were compared with the values of authentic samples and found to be similar. This showed that the product obtained may be benzoic acid and corresponding substituted benzoic acids. This was further confirmed by IR and UV-Visible spectral analysis of the product.

Table 1: Melting point of products on oxidation of benzaldehyde and substituted benzaldehydes

S. No	Substrate	Melting point of product (°C)
1	Benzaldehyde	117 ± 2
2	4-chlorobenzaldehyde	241 ± 2
3	3-chlorobenzaldehyde	156 ± 2
4	4-nitrobenzaldehyde	326 ± 2
5	3-nitrobenzaldehyde	141 ± 2
6	4-hydroxybenzaldehyde	214 ± 2
7	3-hydroxybenzaldehyde	203 ± 2
8	4-methylbenzaldehyde	177 ± 2
9	4-methoxybenzaldehyde	180 ± 2
10	3-methoxybenzaldehyde	170 ± 2

The spectral analyses of the product were carried out by taking benzaldehyde as the typical substrate. The infrared absorption spectrum was recorded from KBr pellets using Jasco FT-IR 4100 spectrophotometer (Japan) and is shown in Figure 1.

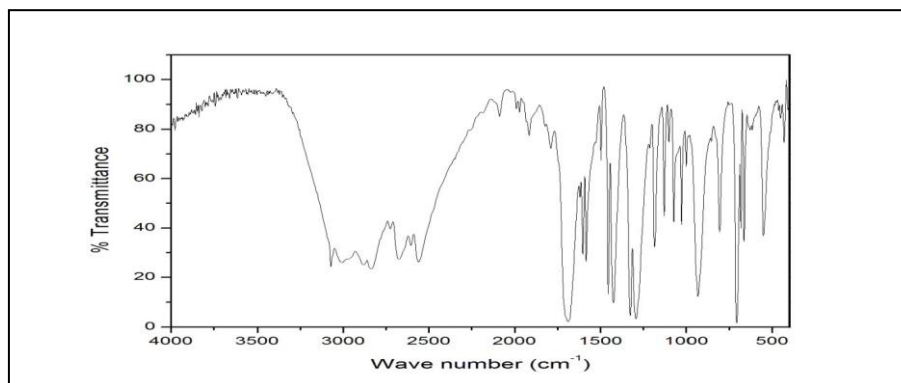


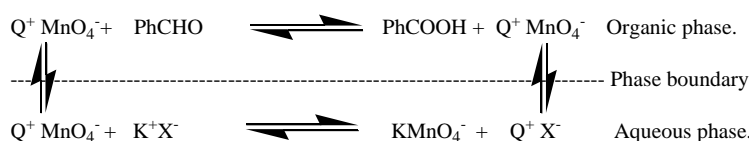
Figure 1: IR spectrum of obtained product

The infrared spectrum of the product showed sharp peaks at 3100 cm<sup>-1</sup> (O–H stretching), 1700 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O stretching) and 1620 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C stretching). Presence of these peaks leads to the conclusion that the product formed may be benzoic acid. Moreover, this spectrum on comparison with the infrared spectrum of pure benzoic acid showed excellent similarities.

All the above analyses, viz., melting point determination and infrared spectral studies proved the formation of benzoic acid and substituted benzoic acids by permanganate under PTC condition.

All the four PT catalysts catalyze the oxidation reactions of benzaldehydes by permanganate under PTC condition. But the yield of products and ease of reaction were found to be in the order with TBPB > TBAB > TBAHS > CTMAB. This may be due to the changes in combination of alkyl groups or may be due to the difference in the activity of anions for phase transfer.

The reaction gives fairly good results in both the solvents employed, namely; ethyl acetate and toluene. The yield of benzoic acids is found to be more in ethyl acetate than that in toluene. As the polarity of ethyl acetate is higher than that of toluene it may help in increase of solubility and partitioning of quaternary salts in the organic phase which are employed as PT catalysts and this results higher reaction rate. The mechanism of the reaction can be given in Scheme 1.



Scheme 1: PTC oxidation of benzaldehydes to corresponding benzoic acids

## CONCLUSION

The PT catalysed oxidation of benzaldehyde and substituted benzaldehydes by permanganate to benzoic acid and corresponding substituted benzoic acids are found to be very smooth in non-polar solvents like ethyl acetate and toluene. So such type of reactions can be employed for the oxidation of other organic substrates in non-polar medium under PTC for getting desired products with high yield, less cost and in a green manner.

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