

Description

The present invention relates to a novel process for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin.

5-Hydroxyhydantoin, as mentioned below, is an important compound which can be converted into 5-(p-hydroxyphenyl)hydantoin, according to the process described in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 138560/1979, which compound is a starting material for p-hydroxyphenylglycine useful for synthesis of semisynthesized penicillin or cephalosporins.

There have been known many processes for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin. Examples of these processes are, for instance, a method wherein alloxan is treated with alkali such as an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth metal hydroxide to give alloxanic acid, followed by decarboxylation under heating in its aqueous solution (see *Berichete der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft*, 54B, 1802 (1921)), a method wherein parabanic acid is reduced with potassium borohydride (see *Bulletin de la Societe Chimique de France*, 942 (1971)), a method wherein glyoxylic acid and urea are reacted in an acidic medium (see *Tetrahedron*, 33, 1191 (1977)), a method wherein hydantoin is oxidized with lead tetraacetate or alkylperoxide (see Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 75473/1989). From *J. Org. Chem.* 1990, 55, 1396-1399 and *Chem. Abstr.*, Vol. 112, 1990, No. 76761a it is known to prepare 5-hydroxyhydantoins by ozonolysis of uracils.

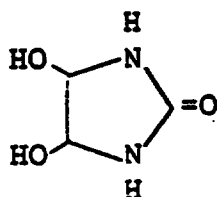
However, the methods using alloxan, parabanic acid or glyoxylic acid are not satisfiable, because the starting materials are expensive. The method wherein hydantoin is oxidized has the problem that dangerous lead tetraacetate or alkylperoxide must be used.

An object of the invention is to provide a useful process for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin from an inexpensive starting material.

This and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from the description hereinafter.

It has now been found that a novel process for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin wherein 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one, which can be synthesized from inexpensive glyoxal, is used as a starting material.

The present invention provides a process for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin which comprises oxidizing 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one having formula (I):



(I)

with hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous medium in the presence of a metal ion selected from divalent iron ion and univalent copper ion.

4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one used as a starting material in the present invention is a compound represented by the above-mentioned.

This compound can be synthesized very easily in a high yield by the reaction of inexpensive glyoxal and urea, for example, as described in *Berichete der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft*, 63B, 2063 (1930).

In the present invention, it is not always necessary to use a purified 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one. A crude product synthesized by the above-mentioned process may be used as it is.

The metal ion is used as a catalyst for the oxidative reaction. The metal ion includes divalent iron ion and univalent copper ion. From the viewpoint of practical use, divalent iron ion is preferable. For supplying these metal ions, for instance, iron (II) salt such as iron (II) sulfate or iron (II) chloride, or copper (I) salt such as copper (I) sulfate or copper (I) chloride is used. The preferable amount of the metal ion to be used is not necessarily limited, since it is variable depending upon other reaction conditions. However, from the viewpoint of increasing the rate of conversion into 5-hydroxyhydantoin, a preferable amount of the metal ion is not less than about 0.01 mole per 1 mole of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one, which is the substrate of the reaction. There is no strict upper limit for the amount. However, in order to avoid the precipitation of excess iron ion, the upper limit is preferably about five times by mole as much as the amount of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one.

As the hydrogen peroxide used as an oxidizing agent, a 30 to 60 % (by weight, hereinafter the same) aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide which is commercially available can be used as it is or in an appropriately diluted state. The concentration of hydrogen peroxide is not particularly limited and usually from 10 to 40 %. The amount of hydrogen peroxide to be used is preferably from 0.8 to 2 times by mole as much as that of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one.

In the present invention, an aqueous medium is used as a reaction medium from the viewpoint of solubility of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one as the starting material. Examples of the aqueous medium include water and mixed solvent of water and alcohol. Water is preferably used due to its most practical use.

The amount of aqueous medium to be used is not particularly limited and usually about from 1 to 50 times by weight as much as that of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one.

In the present invention, 5-hydroxyhydantoin is prepared by oxidizing 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one with hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous medium in the presence of a metal ion. Concretely, for example, the reaction can be conducted by adding a solution of hydrogen peroxide to an aqueous solution of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one by means of dropping, etc.. With respect to the manner of addition of the metal ion, the whole of the necessary amount of the metal ion may be added to the solution containing 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one before the beginning of addition of hydrogen peroxide, or the necessary amount of the metal ion may be added to the solution in a manner such as dropping in the course of the reaction, separately from the addition of hydrogen peroxide.

For the purpose of obtaining 5-hydroxyhydantoin in a high selectivity, the reaction is preferably carried out with preventing the reaction mixture from coming into contact with a gas phase containing molecular oxygen such as air. Accordingly, it is preferable to remove the dissolved oxygen from the solution containing 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one and/or the hydrogen peroxide solution prior to the reaction by passing nitrogen gas through them and to carry out the reaction while passing nitrogen gas through the reaction vessel. Further, in order to prevent the metal ion from oxidation with light, it is preferable to shield the reaction system from light.

The reaction temperature is generally from about 0° to about 50°C, which temperature is so-called ordinary temperature. Preferably the oxidative reaction is carried out in the range of from about 0° to about 15°C. When the reaction temperature is more than 50°C, the yield of 5-hydroxyhydantoin lowers.

The reaction time is not particularly limited and generally from about 0.5 to about 10 hours.

The pH in the oxidative reaction, from the viewpoint of suppressing side reactions, is from 1 to 10, preferably from about 2 to about 8. Since the pH tends to lower with the progress of reaction, the pH may be kept constant by using a pH-stat.

After removing solid parabanic acid as a by-product from the thus obtained reaction product by filtration, etc., 5-hydroxyhydantoin as the desired compound may be isolated and purified by column chromatography, etc.. Thus, 5-hydroxyhydantoin can be prepared in a high yield.

As explained above, according to the process of present invention wherein 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one is oxidized with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of metal ion, 5-hydroxyhydantoin, which can be converted into 5-(p-hydroxyphenyl)hydantoin, can be prepared readily and inexpensively.

The process of the present invention is more specifically described and explained by means of the following Examples in which all per cents and parts are by weight unless otherwise noted.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the Examples, and various changes and modifications may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

Reference Example 1

[Preparation of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one]

A 100 ml-flask was charged with 10.0 ml of a 40 % aqueous solution of glyoxal (0.086 mole as the amount of glyoxal) and 7.7 g (0.129 mole) of urea. The mixture was stirred in a nitrogen atmosphere with shading light at 30°C for 90 minutes. After the reaction, the reaction product was analyzed by high performance liquid chromatography using a 0.05 % aqueous solution of phosphoric acid as a mobile phase and Shodex KC-811 column as a separating column. The analysis indicated the formation of 9.1 g (yield: 90 %) of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one.

The particulars of the high performance liquid chromatography were as follows.

Apparatus:	High performance chromatograph TRIROTAR, made by Japan Spectroscopic Co., LTD
Column:	Shodex KC-811 column, made by Showa Denko Kabushiki Kaisha
Developing solvent:	0.05 % aqueous solution of phosphoric acid
Flow rate:	0.8 ml/min.
Detection:	210 nm, with UV detector

The retention time of the 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one was 11.3 minutes under these conditions. The R_f value obtained by thin layer chromatography with silica gel was 0.27 (BuOH : CH₃CO₂H : H₂O = 4 : 1 : 1 by volume). These values completely coincided with those of a standard sample synthesized by the known method described in Berichete der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft, 63B, 2063 (1930).

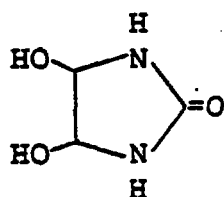
Apparatus: High performance chromatograph TRIROTAR, made by Japan Spectroscopic Co., LTD
 Column: YMC Packed Column A-303 S-5 120A ODS, made by YMC Kabushiki Kaisha
 Developing solvent: phosphate buffer solution (pH 2.5) containing 13 % of acetonitrile
 Flow rate: 0.7 ml/min
 5 Detection: 210 nm, with UV detector

The retention time of the 5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-hydantoin was 7.1 minutes under these conditions. The R_f value obtained by thin layer chromatography with silica gel was 0.83 (BuOH : CH₃CO₂H : H₂O = 4 : 1 : 1 by volume). These values completely coincided with those of a standard sample synthesized by the known method described in
 10 Japanese Examined Patent Publication No. 22474/1980 (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 138560/1979).

In addition to the ingredients used in the Examples, other ingredients can be used in the Examples as set forth in the specification to obtain substantially the same results.

Claims

- 15 1. A process for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin which comprises oxidizing 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one having formula (I):



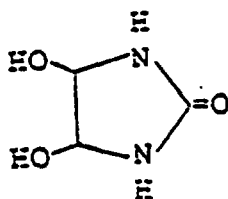
(I)

with hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous medium in the presence of a metal ion selected from divalent iron ion and univalent copper ion.

- 30 2. The process of Claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one which is prepared from an aqueous solution of glyoxal and urea is used as a starting material.
- 35 3. The process of Claim 1, wherein said 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one and hydrogen peroxide are free from molecular oxygen and the reaction is carried out with shading light.

Patentansprüche

- 40 1. Ein Verfahren zur Herstellung von 5-Hydroxyhydantoin, welches umfaßt
 Oxidieren von 4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-on mit der Formel (I):



(I)

mit Wasserstoffperoxid in einem wäßrigen Medium in Gegenwart eines Metallions, ausgewählt aus divalentem Eisenion und monovalentem Kupferion.

- 55 2. Das Verfahren aus Anspruch 1, wobei als Ausgangsmaterial eine wäßrige Lösung von 4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-on verwendet wird, die aus einer wäßrigen Lösung von Glyoxal und Harnstoff hergestellt wird.
3. Das Verfahren aus Anspruch 1, wobei das 4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-on und Wasserstoffperoxid frei sind von molekularem Sauerstoff und die Reaktion unter Lichtabschirmung durchgeführt wird.



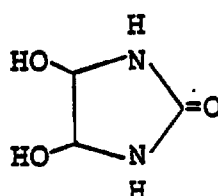
Apparatus: High performance chromatograph TRIROTAR, made by Japan Spectroscopic Co., LTD
 Column: YMC Packed Column A-303 S-5 120A ODS, made by YMC Kabushiki Kaisha
 Developing solvent: phosphate buffer solution (pH 2.5) containing 13 % of acetonitrile
 Flow rate: 0.7 ml/min
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Claims

1. A process for preparing 5-hydroxyhydantoin which comprises oxidizing 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one having formula (I):



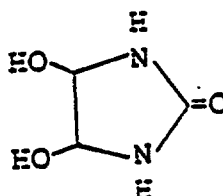
(I)

with hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous medium in the presence of a metal ion selected from divalent iron ion and univalent copper ion.

2. The process of Claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution of 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one which is prepared from an aqueous solution of glyoxal and urea is used as a starting material.
3. The process of Claim 1, wherein said 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolin-2-one and hydrogen peroxide are free from molecular oxygen and the reaction is carried out with shading light.

Patentansprüche

1. Ein Verfahren zur Herstellung von 5-Hydroxyhydantoin, welches umfaßt Oxidieren von 4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-on mit der Formel (I):



(I)

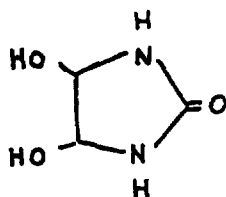
mit Wasserstoffperoxid in einem wäßrigen Medium in Gegenwart eines Metallions, ausgewählt aus divalentem Eisenion und monovalentem Kupferion.

2. Das Verfahren aus Anspruch 1, wobei als Ausgangsmaterial eine wäßrige Lösung von 4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-on verwendet wird, die aus einer wäßrigen Lösung von Glyoxal und Harnstoff hergestellt wird.
3. Das Verfahren aus Anspruch 1, wobei das 4,5-Dihydroxyimidazolin-2-on und Wasserstoffperoxid frei sind von molekularem Sauerstoff und die Reaktion unter Lichtabschirmung durchgeführt wird.



Revendications

1. Procédé de préparation de la 5-hydroxyhydantoïne qui consiste à oxyder la 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolinone-2 répondant à la formule (I) :



(I)

avec le peroxyde d'hydrogène dans un milieu aqueux en présence d'un ion métallique choisi parmi un ion fer divalent ou un ion cuivre univalent.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel on utilise comme matière de départ une solution aqueuse de 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolinone-2 qui est préparée à partir d'une solution aqueuse de glyoxal et d'urée.
3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel lesdits 4,5-dihydroxyimidazolinone-2 et peroxyde d'hydrogène sont exempts d'oxygène moléculaire et la réaction est effectuée en lumière tamisée.