

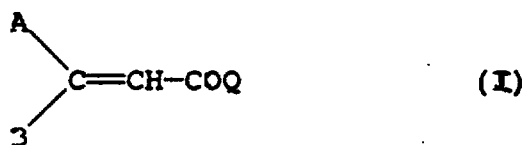
Description

The present invention relates to an improved process for the preparation of 3,3-diphenylacrylic acid amides.

EP 0 120 321 A1, EP 0 208 999 A1 and EP 0 219 756 A1 disclose certain 3,3-diphenylacrylic acid amides and various methods for the preparation of such compounds. These compounds exhibit fungicidal activity and are particularly suitable for the control of phytopathogenic fungi. EP 0 294 907 discloses a different method for the preparation of such compounds which involves the reaction of a benzophenone with an appropriate acetamide in the presence of a strong base and EP-A-0 329 256 reveals that the yield of this reaction is improved if a sodium tertiary alcoholate is used as the base. However, such alcoholates react readily with the water which is produced in the course of the reaction yielding the corresponding alcohol and alkali metal hydroxide. This hydroxide in turn cleaves base-sensitive reactants, such as the acetamide or the desired product, often to a large extent and thus reduces the yield from the process. Attempts to overcome this problem heretofore have involved the use of a substantial excess, generally 3-fold or even higher, of the acetamide reactant. However, such processes still yield a product of less than 90% purity.

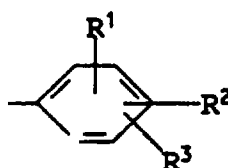
It has now been found that, surprisingly, the cleavage side reaction can be suppressed by the addition of an alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate thereby reducing the need for excess acetamide reactant to only a small excess, e.g. a 1.5 fold excess, and increasing the purity of the products to nearly 100%.

According to the present invention there is therefore provided a process for the preparation of a 3,3-diphenylacrylic acid amide of general formula

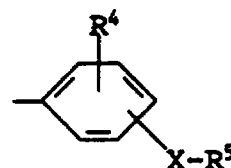


wherein

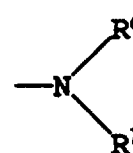
A represents



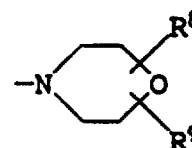
B represents



Q represents



or



in which

R¹ is C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₁₋₄-alkoxy, NH₂, NHC₁₋₄-alkyl, N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, C₃₋₄-alkenyl, C₃₋₄-alkynyl, C₃₋₄-alkenyloxy, C₃₋₄-alkynyloxy, or C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl;

R² is C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₁₋₄-alkoxy or halogen;

R³ is hydrogen or halogen;

R⁴ is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄-alkyl, or C₁₋₄-alkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₁₋₄-alkoxy and halogen moieties, a C₁₋₁₂alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, a C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, phenylphenyl or phenoxyphenyl group, a C₂₋₆-alkenyl or C₂₋₆-alkynyl group each optionally substituted by a phenyl group, or a naphthyl or C₅₋₈-cycloalkenyl group;

X is a single bond, -O-, -S(O)_p-, -N=N-, -CHR⁹O-, -OCHR⁹-, -CHR⁹S(O)_p-, -S(O)_pCHR⁹-, -(CH₂)_n-, -HC=CH-, or -C≡C-;

R⁶ is C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, benzyl, C₃₋₄-alkenyl or C₃₋₄-alkynyl;

- R^7 is C_{1-4} -alkyl;
 R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} -alkyl or C_{1-4} -alkoxy;
 R^9 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} -alkyl;
 p is 0, 1, or 2; and
 n is an integer from 1 to 10.

by reacting a benzophenone of formula II



in which A and B have the meanings given above, with an acetamide of formula III



in which Q has the meaning given above, in the presence of an alkali metal tertiary alcoholate characterised in that the reaction is carried out additionally in the presence of an alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate.

The alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate may be a carbonic acid half ester salt of any alcohol but normally the alcohol employed will be the same as that used in the alkali metal tertiary alcoholate. Good results have been obtained with those alcoholates and carbonates derived from tertiary alcohols of formula IV



wherein each R is independently an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Preferably two of the groups R are methyl groups and the remaining R is a methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl group. Preferred alcohols are butyl and amyl alcohol. The alkali metal may be any alkali metal, but preferably it is the same as that used in the alkali metal alcoholate and this is conveniently sodium or potassium.

The alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate may be prepared *in situ* or added as such and may be prepared by known methods, e.g. by reaction of carbon dioxide with an alkali metal alcoholate in the presence of an inert solvent. In practice, it is convenient in the process according to the invention if, firstly, a portion of the alkali metal tertiary alcoholate used for the process is reacted with carbon dioxide in an inert solvent to produce the desired carbonate. To this is then added the remaining portion of the alcoholate and the benzophenone and acetamide reactants.

The process according to the invention may be carried out in the presence of inert solvents such as toluene, benzene, diethyl ether, diglyme,

tetrahydrofuran, and N,N-dimethyl formamide. According to the reactivity of the components, the reaction may be carried out with cooling, at room temperature or at elevated temperature up to the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture. Generally, the reaction takes place at a temperature in the range from 10°C to 150°C . It is advantageous to remove the alcohol which is formed in the course of reaction by simultaneous azeotropic distillation. An overall excess of the alkali metal tertiary alcoholate (preferably 1.5 - 2 fold) and/or an excess of the acetamide is advantageous. The latter can be recovered and fed into the reaction again. The reaction may also be carried out in the presence of an excess of the alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate.

The process according to the invention may be used to prepare all the compounds of general formula I but it is particularly useful for compounds of formula I wherein:

in group A:

R^1 is C_{1-4} -alkoxy (e.g. methoxy or ethoxy), C_{1-4} -alkyl (e.g. methyl, ethyl or propyl), or amino;

R^2 is C_{1-4} -alkoxy (e.g. methoxy or ethoxy), C_{1-4} -alkyl (e.g. methyl, ethyl or propyl), or halogen; and

R^3 is hydrogen or halogen;

in group B:

R^4 is hydrogen or halogen;

R^5 is hydrogen, phenyl or halophenyl (e.g. 4-halophenyl); and

X is a single bond or -O-

and Q represents a morpholine group wherein R^8 and R^9 are both hydrogen.

The halogen or halo-substituent may be a fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom but is preferably a chlorine or bromine atom.

In the group A, the substitution in the phenyl ring is preferably in the 3 and 4 positions or in the 3,4 and 5 positions, particularly preferred examples of such substitution being 3,4-dimethoxy, 3-ethoxy-4-methoxy, 3-chloro-4-methoxy, 3-bromo-4-methoxy, 3-methyl-4-methoxy, 3-ethyl-4-methoxy, 3-propyl-4-methoxy, 3,4-dimethyl, 3-amino-4-methoxy, 3,5-dichloro-4-amino and 3-methoxy-4-methyl. Of these, 3,4-dimethoxy substitution of the phenyl ring is especially preferred.

A particularly preferred compound of formula I is 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) acrylic acid morpholide.

The process according to the invention normally yields mixtures of *cis* and *trans* isomers of 3,3-di-phenylacrylic acid amides and these mixtures may, if desired, be separated or converted into the individual *cis* or *trans* isomer. The mixture may also be converted into *cis*-rich or *trans*-rich mixtures.

The process according to the invention is further illustrated by the following examples.

Example 1:

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acrylic acid morpholide

Sodium hydride (with 20% of paraffin oil; 7.5g, 250 mmol) was stirred with anhydrous xylene (250 ml) at 100 °C and tert.-amyl alcohol (23.14 g, 262.5 mmol) was added dropwise over a period of 30 minutes. As soon as the solution was clear, it was cooled to 70 °C and divided into two parts. Into one part of the solution (107 g, corresponding to 110 mmol of sodium tert.-amylate) carbon dioxide was passed with vigorous stirring, whilst the exothermic reaction was kept at 70 °C by slight cooling. The excess carbon dioxide was removed with a stream of dry nitrogen whilst heating to 100 °C for 10 minutes. After that the remaining part of the original solution (137 g, corresponding to 140 mmol of sodium tert.-amylate), 4-chloro-3',4'-dimethoxy benzophenone (27.67 g, 100 mmol) and acetyl morpholine (18.08 g, 140 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 hours with stirring. The tertiary amyl alcohol produced was simultaneously removed by azeotropic distillation (approx 50 ml of distillate). Finally, the mixture was cooled to 80 °C, carbon dioxide was passed through for 30 min, the hot solution was washed with water (2 x 50 ml) and dried. The xylene was removed on a rotary evaporator and the residue vigorously stirred with diisopropyl ether (100 ml) under reflux whereupon solid product was obtained which was recovered by suction after cooling, washed with diisopropyl ether and dried.

Yield: 32.5 g with a purity of 99.5%,
(corresponding to 82.2% of theoretical yield)

mp: 133 - 150 °C

Isomer ratio: E/Z = 45:55

Comparative Example

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acrylic acid morpholide

The preparation was performed as described above with the exception that no alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate was present during the reaction.

Yield: 58.7% of theoretical, product purity: 89.6%

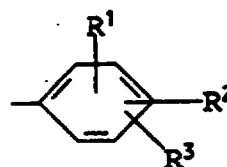
Claims

1. A process for the preparation of a 3,3-diphenylacrylic acid amide of general formula I

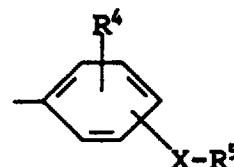


wherein

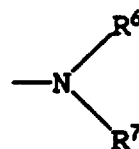
A represents



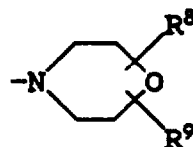
B represents



Q represents



or



in which

R¹ is C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₁₋₄-alkoxy, NH₂, NHC₁₋₄-alkyl, N(C₁₋₄-alkyl)₂, C₃₋₄-alkenyl, C₃₋₄-alkynyl, C₃₋₄-alkenyloxy, C₃₋₄-alkynyloxy, or C₃₋₅-cycloalkyl;

The process according to the invention is further illustrated by the following examples.

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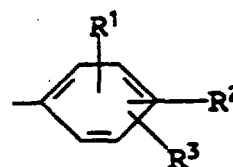
Claims

1. A process for the preparation of a 3,3-diphenylacrylic acid amide of general formula I

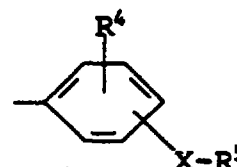


wherein

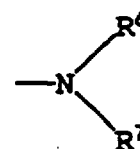
A represents



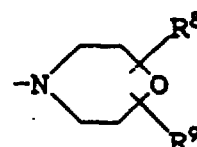
B represents



Q represents



or



in which

R¹ is C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₁₋₄-alkoxy, NH₂, NHC₁₋₄-alkyl, N(C₁₋₄-alkyl)₂, C₃₋₄-alkenyl, C₃₋₄-alkynyl, C₃₋₄-alkenyloxy, C₃₋₄-alkynyloxy, or C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl;



R^2 is C_{1-4} -alkyl, C_{1-4} -alkoxy or halogen;

R^3 is hydrogen or halogen;

R^4 is hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4} -alkyl, or C_{1-4} -alkoxy;

R^5 is hydrogen, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-4} -alkyl, C_{1-4} -alkoxy and halogen moieties, a C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, a C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, phenylphenyl or phenoxyphenyl group, a C_{2-6} -alkenyl or C_{2-6} -alkynyl group each optionally substituted by a phenyl group, or a naphthyl or C_{5-8} -cycloalkenyl group;

X is a single bond, -O-, $-S(O)_p$ -, $-N=N-$, $-CHR^9O-$, $-OCHR^9-$, $-CHR^9S(O)_p-$, $-S(O)_p-CHR^9-$, $-(CH_2)_n-$, $-HC=CH-$, or $-C\equiv C-$;

R^6 is C_{1-4} -alkyl, C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, benzyl, C_{3-4} -alkenyl or C_{3-4} -alkynyl;

R^7 is C_{1-4} -alkyl;

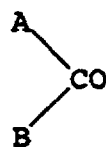
R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} -alkyl or C_{1-4} -alkoxy;

R^9 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} -alkyl;

p is 0, 1, or 2; and

n is an integer from 1 to 10.

by reacting a benzophenone of formula II



(II)

in which A and B have the meanings given above, with an acetamide of formula III



in which Q has the meaning given above, in the presence of an alkali metal tertiary alcoholate characterised in that the reaction is carried out additionally in the presence of an alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate and an inert solvent, excess alkali metal tertiary alcoholate is present, the acetamide of formula III is present in excess and the reaction temperature is in the range from $10^\circ C$ to $150^\circ C$.

2. A process according to claim 1 characterised in that the alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate is obtained from the reaction of an alkali metal tertiary alcoholate with carbon dioxide in the presence of an inert solvent.

3. A process according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the alkali metal tertiary alcoholate and the alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate are derived from an alcohol of general formula IV

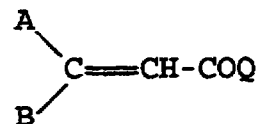


wherein each R is independently an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

4. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that the alkali metal is sodium or potassium.
5. A process according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that an excess of the alkali metal mono-alkyl carbonate is present.
6. A process according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the alcohol formed in the course of the reaction is removed by azeotropic distillation.

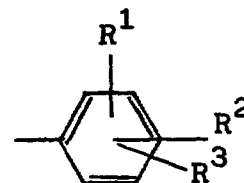
Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines 3,3-Diphenylacrylsäureamids der allgemeinen Formel I

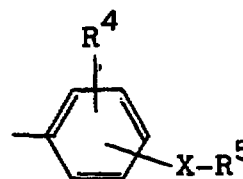


(I),

worin A für

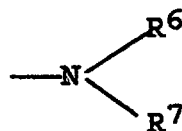


steht, B die Bedeutung

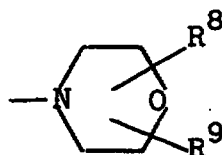


hat, Q für





oder



steht, worin

R¹ die Bedeutung C₁-4 Alkyl, C₁-4 Alkoxy, NH₂, NHC₁-4 Alkyl, N-(C₁-4 Alkyl)₂, C₃-4 Alkenyl, C₃-4 Alkiny, C₃-4 Alkenyloxy, C₃-4 Alkinyloxy oder C₃-6 Cycloalkyl hat;

R² für C₁-4 Alkyl, C₁-4 Alkoxy oder Halogen steht;

R³ Wasserstoff oder Halogen bedeutet;
 4 Wasserstoff, Halogen, C₁-4 Alkyl oder C₁-4 Alkoxy bedeutet;

R⁵ für Wasserstoff, eine gegebenenfalls durch einen oder mehrere Substituenten, ausgewählt unter C₁-4 Alkyl-, C₁-4 Alkoxy- und Halogenresten, substituierte Phenylgruppe, eine gegebenenfalls durch ein oder mehrere Halogenatome substituierte C₁-12 Alkylgruppe, eine C₃-7 Cycloalkylgruppe, Phenylphenylgruppe oder Phenoxyphenylgruppe, eine C₂-6 Alkenyl- oder C₂-6 Alkinylgruppe, jeweils gegebenenfalls durch eine Phenylgruppe substituiert, oder eine Naphthyl- oder C₅-8 Cycloalkenylgruppe steht;

X eine einfache Bindung, -O-, -S(O)_p-, -N=N-, -CHR⁹O-, -OCHR⁹-, -CHR⁹S-(O)_p-, -S(O)_pCHR⁹-, -(CH₂)_n-, -HC=CH- oder -C≡C- bedeutet;

R⁶ für C₁-4 Alkyl, C₃-7 Cycloalkyl, Benzyl, C₃-4 Alkenyl oder C₃-4 Alkiny steht;

R⁷ die Bedeutung C₁-4 Alkyl hat;

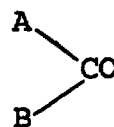
R⁸ für Wasserstoff, C₁-4 Alkyl oder C₁-4 Alkoxy steht;

R⁹ Wasserstoff oder C₁-4 Alkyl bedeutet;

p den Wert 0, 1 oder 2 hat; und

n eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 10 bedeutet,

durch Umsetzen eines Benzophenons der Formel II



(II),

worin A und B die oben angegebenen Bedeutungen aufweisen, mit einem Acetamid der Formel III



worin Q die oben angeführte Bedeutung hat, in Gegenwart eines Alkalimetall-tert.alkoholats, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Umsetzung zusätzlich in Gegenwart eines Alkalimetall-monoalkylcarbonats und eines inerten Lösungsmittels ausgeführt wird, überschüssiges Alkalimetall-tert.alkoholat zugegen ist, das Acetamid der Formel III im Überschuß vorhanden ist und die Umsetzungstemperatur im Bereich von 10 °C bis 150 °C liegt.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Alkalimetall-monoalkylcarbonat aus der Umsetzung eines Alkalimetall-tert.alkoholats mit Kohlendioxid in Gegenwart eines inerten Lösungsmittels erhalten wird.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Alkalimetall-tert.alkoholat und das Alkalimetall-monoalkylcarbonat von einem Alkohol der allgemeinen Formel IV abgeleitet sind



worin jeder Rest R unabhängig voneinander eine Alkylgruppe mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen bedeutet.

4. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Alkalimetall Natrium oder Kalium ist.

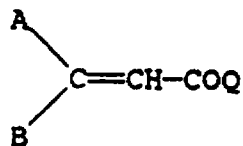
5. Verfahren nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß ein Überschuß des Alkalimetall-monoalkylcarbonats zugegen ist.

6. Verfahren nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der im Laufe der Umsetzung gebildete Alkohol durch azeotrope Destillation abgetrennt wird.



Revendications

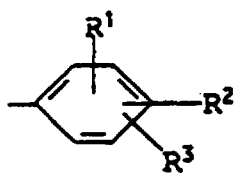
1. Un procédé pour la préparation d'un amide d'acide 3,3-diphénylacrylique de formule générale I



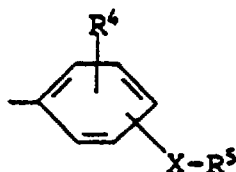
(I)

où

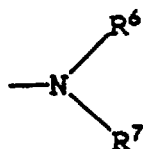
A représente



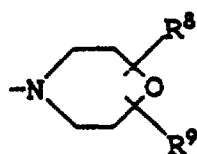
B représente



Q représente



ou



où

R¹ est un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle, C₁₋₄ al-

coxy, NH₂, NHC₁₋₄ alcoyle, N(C₁₋₄ alcoyle)₂, C₃₋₄ alcényle, C₃₋₄ alcynyle, C₃₋₄ alcényloxy, C₃₋₄ alcynyloxy ou C₃₋₆ cycloalcoyle ;

R² est un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle, C₁₋₄ alcoxy ou un halogène ;

R³ est l'hydrogène ou un halogène ;

R⁴ est l'hydrogène, un halogène ou un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle ou C₁₋₄ alcoxy ;

R⁵ est l'hydrogène, un groupe phényle éventuellement substitué par un ou plusieurs substituants choisis parmi des portions C₁₋₄ alcoyle, C₁₋₄ alcoxy et halogène, un groupe C₁₋₁₂ alcoyle éventuellement substitué par un ou plusieurs atomes d'halogènes, un groupe C₃₋₇ cycloalcoyle, phénylphényle ou phénoxyphényle, un groupe C₂₋₆ alcényle ou C₂₋₆ alcynyle, chacun éventuellement substitué par un groupe phényle, ou un groupe naphthyle ou C₅₋₈ cycloalcényle ;

X est une liaison simple, -O-, -S(O)_p-, -N=N-, -CHR⁸O-, -OCHR⁸-, -CHR⁸S(O)_p-, -S(O)_pCHR⁸-, -(CH₂)_n-, -HC=CH- ou -C≡C- ;

R⁶ est un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle, C₃₋₇ cycloalcoyle, benzyle, C₃₋₄ alcényle ou C₃₋₄ alcynyle ;

R⁷ est un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle ;

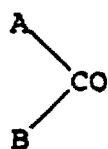
R⁸ est l'hydrogène ou un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle ou C₁₋₄ alcoxy ;

R⁹ est l'hydrogène ou un groupe C₁₋₄ alcoyle ;

p est 0, 1 ou 2 ; et

n est un nombre entier de 1 à 10

par réaction d'une benzophénone de formule II



(II)

où A et B ont les significations indiquées ci-dessus, avec un acétamide de formule III



où Q a la signification indiquée ci-dessus, en présence d'un alcoolate tertiaire de métal alcalin, caractérisé en ce que la réaction est conduite en présence aussi d'un mono-alcoyl carbonate de métal alcalin et d'un solvant inerte, un excès d'alcoolate tertiaire de métal alcalin est présent, l'acétamide de formule III est présent en excès et la température de réaction est comprise entre 10 °C et 150 °C.

2. Un procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que le mono-alcoyl carbonate de



métal alcalin est obtenu par la réaction d'un alcoolate tertiaire de métal alcalin avec l'anhydride carbonique en présence d'un solvant inerte.

Un procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, caractérisé en ce que l'alcoolate tertiaire de métal alcalin et le mono-alcoyl carbonate de métal alcalin sont dérivés d'un alcool de formule générale IV



où chaque R est indépendamment un groupe alcoyle de 1 à 4 atomes de carbone.

4. Un procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, caractérisé en ce que le métal alcalin est du sodium ou du potassium.

5. Un procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisé en ce qu'un excès du mono-alcoyl carbonate de métal alcalin est présent.

6. Un procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisé en ce que l'alcool formé au cours de la réaction est éliminé par distillation azeotropique.

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