Category

Synthesis of Materials and Unnatural Products

Key words

bromination

triptycene tris(thiadiazoles)

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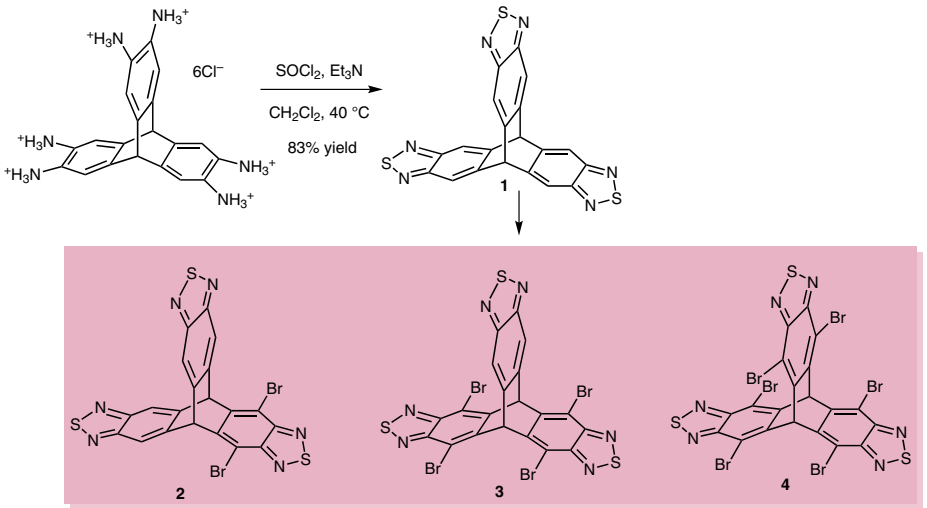
Selective Even-Numbered Bromination of Triptycene Tris(thiadiazoles)
Org. Lett. **2014**, *16*, 5596–5599.

An Unusual Regioselective Di-, Tetra-, and Hexa-Bromination



Reaction Conditions				Isolated Yield (%)			
Additive (equiv)	Br_2 (equiv)	Time (h)	Temp (°C)	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Fe (12)	150	14	40	34	31	15	–[a]
Fe (6)	34	2	55	18	32	18	6
Fe (12)	600	140	55	–	–	9	67
HBr (22)	50	140	24	–	–	–	94
$FeCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ (6)	50	55	26	–	–	–	97

[a] Approximately 7% of hexabromotriptycene has been formed, but not isolated and purified.

Significance: Mastalerz and co-workers report an unusual even-numbered bromination of triptycene tris(thiadiazoles), yielding regioselectively dibromo-, tetrabromo-, and hexabromotriptycenes with two bromines each on the same phenyl ring. These brominated compounds will be useful in the synthesis of π-conjugated polymers of intrinsic microporosity and small electron acceptors.

Comment: Given that the C–C bond lengths of the phenyl rings are alternating, and hence the phenyl rings exhibit more olefinic than aromatic character from X-ray single crystal structure of **1**, the mechanism for this unusual even-numbered bromination is proposed to involve 1,4-addition of Br_2, followed by subsequent re-aromatization of the phenyl ring by oxidation by Br_2 or $FeBr_3$. It is also proposed that this 1,4-addition–oxidation sequence is favored over electrophilic aromatic substitution. Furthermore, to demonstrate the utility of these monomers in the synthesis of conjugated polymers, dibromotriptycene **2** has been shown to undergo facile Suzuki–Miyaura cross-coupling.

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Synfacts 2015, 11(1), 0040 Published online: 15.12.2014
DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1379672; **Reg-No.:** S13114SF

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