Practically Simple Method for the Synthesis of N-Formyl Amino Acid Esters

**Significance:** Protecting groups play an inherent role in peptide chemistry. In 1994, the authors developed a facile procedure for synthesizing N-formyl amino acid esters using commercially available trimethyl orthoformate or triethyl orthoformate.

**Comment:** A series of N-formyl amino acid esters were synthesized in good yields with excellent optical purity. This method is practically simple and proceeds without racemization.

**OR1**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{HCHO}_{2}N & \quad \text{OR}^1 \\
& \quad \text{H} \quad \text{N} \\
\text{O} & \quad \text{R} \\
(1 \text{ equiv}) & \\
& \quad \Delta, \text{1 h} \\
\rightarrow & \quad \text{HOC}\quad \text{N} \\
\text{O} & \quad \text{R} \\
\text{OR}^1 &
\end{align*}
\]

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