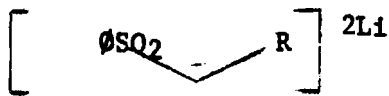


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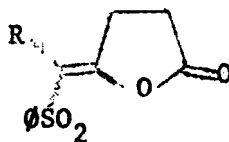
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Abstract

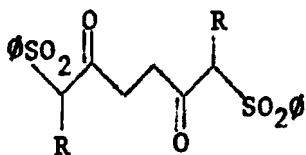
The reactions of the dianions 7 of alkyl phenylsulfones with succinic acid derivatives have been studied to find new synthetic route to γ -alkylidene- γ -butyrolactones. Succinylation of the dianions 7 with dimethyl succinate produced bis(phenylsulfonyl)diones 11 in moderate to good yields, which were subjected to reductive desulfurisation by using Al/Hg affording sym-1,4-diketones in good yields. On the other hand, the reactions of 7 with succinic anhydride gave 5-phenylsulfonyl-4-oxoalkanoic acids 12. Attempted enolisation-lactonisation of 12 to the desired γ -alkylidene- γ -lactones of type 10 using the reaction conditions were unsuccessful.



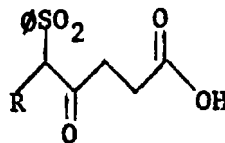
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