Microwave-assisted facile synthesis and crystal structure of cis-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3'4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione

Weerachai Phutdhawong
Maejo University

Duang Buddhasukh
Chiang Mai University

Stephen G. Pyne
University of Wollongong, spyne@uow.edu.au

Apinpus Rujiwatra
Chiang Mai University

Chaveng Pakawatchai
Prince of Songkla University

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Keywords
Microwave, assisted, facile, synthesis, crystal, structure, cis, tetrahydro, furanoanthracene, dione, CMMB

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Microwave-assisted facile synthesis and crystal structure of cis-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3',4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione

Weerachai Phutdhawong¹*, Duang Buddhasukh², Stephen G. Pyne³, Apinpus Rujiwatra² and Chaveng Pakawatchai⁴

¹ Department of Chemistry, Maejo University, Chiang Mai, 50290, Thailand
² Department of Chemistry, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, 50202, Thailand
³ Department of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW, 2522, Australia
⁴ Department of Chemistry, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkla 90112, Thailand

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; e-mail: weerachai@mju.ac.th

Abstract

A facile synthesis and crystal structure of cis-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3',4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione from the reaction of anthracene and maleic anhydride in xylene in a short time and high yield using a modified commercial domestic microwave oven is reported.
Microwave reactors are becoming increasingly popular and effective for applications in organic synthesis.\(^1\) The reported preparation of *cis*-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3',4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione (3) involves heating a mixture of anthracene (1) and maleic anhydride (2) in a high boiling point solvent at reflux temperature (Scheme 1).\(^2\) This process requires long reaction times to achieve a satisfactory yield. We report here the synthesis and the crystal structure of *cis*-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3',4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione (3) by using a modified domestic microwave oven.\(^3\)

When a mixture of anthracene (1) and maleic anhydride (2) in xylene, was irradiated (800 W) in a microwave oven for 8 min, the cycloadduct 3 was obtained in 97% yield. The temperature during microwave irradiation was recorded using an infrared thermometer (129-138°C). For comparison, this reaction was repeated in a sealed tube in an oil bath maintained at 100-110°C for 24 h. This reaction gave the desired product (3) in 85% yield (Scheme 1). The structure of compound 3 was confirmed by single crystal X-ray structural analysis as shown in Figure 1.

![Scheme 1](image-url)

**Scheme 1.** Diels-Alder reactions of anthracene (1) and maleic anhydride (2) under different reaction conditions.
Short communication

Figure 1. Molecular structure of cis-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3',4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione (3) showing 50% thermal ellipsoids.

Spectroscopic Procedures:

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz) and $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz) experiments were carried out on a Bruker AM 400 spectrometer in CDCl$_3$ solution; IR spectrum was recorded on a Perkin Elmer FT-IR spectrometer; mass spectrum was recorded on a Perkin-Elmer GC/MS .

General Procedure for the Synthesis of cis-9,10,11,15-tetrahydro-9,10[3',4']-furanoanthracene-12,14-dione (3)

By using a modified commercial domestic microwave oven (http://www.science.mju.ac.th/chemistry/research/weerachai/reactor_eng.htm): A mixture of anthracene (1.00 g, 5.6 mmol), maleic anhydride (0.823 g, 8.4 mmol) and xylene (5 mL) contained in a 100 ml round bottom flask was placed in the modified microwave oven. A condenser was attached and the solution was subjected to irradiation of 800 Watt for 8 min. It was
then allowed to cool to room temperature. The product was purified according to the report of Bachmann et al.² After recrystallization from MeOH, colorless needles were obtained (1.512g, 97.85% yield), m.p. 262-265 °C (Lit.² 262-263 °C). IR (KBr) (νmax, cm⁻¹): 1228 (C=O-C), 1475 and 1655 (C=C Ar.), 1783 (C=O), 3100 (=C-H Ar.); ¹H NMR δ: 3.51 (2H, s, 2CH), 4.80 (2H, s, 2CH), 7.16-7.39 (8H, m, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR δ: 45.9 (CH), 48.2 (CH), 124.2-127.1 (ArCH), 138.2 (ArC), 140.1 (ArC), 170.1 (C=O); MS (EI) m/z : 276 (18), 203 (19), 178 (100), 149 (67)

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References


3. Details of the microwave reactor are available on our Research Unit web page:
   http://www.science.mju.ac.th/chemistry/research/weerachai/reactor_eng.htm