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COLLEGE: MHS

DEPT: PHARMACY

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CHEMISTRY 104 ASSIGNMENT ON ETHERS

IUPAC NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

1, [1] CH3OCH3: Methoxymethane

ii, CH3CH2OCH2CH3: Ethoxyethane

iii. [CH3CH2CH2CH2]2O: Butoxymethane

iv, CH3CH2OCH3: Methoxymethane

v, CH3CH2CH2OCH2CH3: Ethoxy Propane

2, PROPERTIES OF ETHERS

GENERAL PROPERTIES:

 Physical states: At room temperature, ethers are colorless, neutral liquids with pleasant odors. The lower aliphatic Ethers are highly flammable gases or volatile liquids

 Solubility; Ethers are less soluble in water than are the corresponding alcohols. Lower molecular weight ethers such as methoxymethane and methoxy ethane are fairly soluble in water since the molecule are able to form hydrogen bonds with the water molecules but as the hydrocarbon content of the molecules increases, there is a rapid decline in solubility. They are miscible with most organic solvents’

 Density; Most of the simple ethers are less dense than water, although the density increases with increasing relative molecular mass and some of the aromatic ethers are in fact denser than water.

 Boiling point; Low molecular mass ethers have a lower boiling point than the corresponding alcohols but those ethers containing alkyl radicals larger than four carbon atoms, the reverse is true. The boiling point of ethers tend to approximate those of hydrocarbons of same relative molecular mass from which it can be concluded that the molecules are not associated in the liquid phase as there are no suitably available hydrogen for association through hydrogen bonds,

Reactivity; Ethers are inert at moderate temperature. Their inertness at moderate temperatures leads to their wide use as reaction media

 Simple ethers are not found commonly in nature but the ether linkage is present in such natural products as sugars, starches and cellulose.

3. TWO METHODS OF PREPARING ETHERS

 MANUFACTURE AND PREPARATION OF ETHERS;

 Partial dehydration of alcohols Simple ethers are manufactured from alcohols by catalytic dehydration. The alcohol in excess and concentrated tetra oxo sulphate(vi) acid is heated at a carefully maintained temperature of 140oC. this process is known as continuous etherification. If excess alcohol is not used, the temperature is as high as 170-180oC, further dehydration

to yield alkene occurs

 2ROH conc. H2SO4 / 1400 CR-O-R + H2O

Examples 2CH3CH2OH conc. H2SO4 /1400 CH3CH2 -O- CH2CH3 + H2O

CONTROLLED CATALYTIC HYDRATION OF OLEFINS

 2CH3CH=CH2 + H2O----> (CH3=)CH-O-CH(CH3)2 2-isopropoxypropane

 From Haloalkanes and dry silver (I) oxide 2RX + Ag2O warm R-O-R + 2AgX

 2CH3CH2CH2CL+ Ag2O CH3CH2CH2O CH2CH2CH3 +2AgCl Propoxypropane.

4. Uses of ethylene oxide

1, Ethylene oxide is used as an intermediate in the hydrolytic manufacture of ethylene glycol.

2, Ethylene oxide is used in the preparation of nonionic emulsifying agents, plastics, plasticizers and several synthetic textiles.

3, Ethylene oxide is used as a gaseous sterilizing agent for medical equipment.