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Assignment on ether

1. Give the IUPAC names of the following organic compounds.
 - a. CH_3OCH_3
 - b. $\text{CtH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$
 - c. $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}$
 - d. $\text{CtH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_3$
 - e. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$
2. Discuss the properties of ethers.
3. Discuss explicitly two methods of preparing ethers and show equations of reaction.
4. State three uses of ethylene oxide.

Answers:

- 1a. CH_3OCH_3 — Methoxy methane b. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ — Ethoxyethane
- c. $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}$ — Butoxymethane d. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ — Methoxyethane
- e. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ — Ethoxypropane

2a. Physical states: At room temperature, ethers are colourless, neutral liquids with pleasant odours. The lower aliphatic ethers are highly flammable gases or volatile liquids.

b. Solubility: Ethers are less soluble in water than are the corresponding

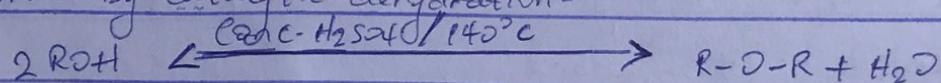
alcohols. Lower molecular weight ethers such as methoxymethane and methane are fairly soluble in water since the molecule are able to form hydrogen bonds with the water molecule but as the hydrocarbon content of the molecule increases, there is a rapid decline in solubility. They are miscible with most organic solvents.

c. 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.

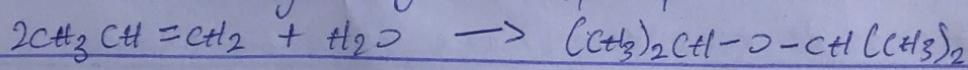
d. Boiling Point: Low molecular mass ethers have a lower boiling point than the corresponding alcohols but those ether containing alkyl radicals larger than four carbon atoms, the reverse is true. The boiling point of ethers tend to approximate those of hydrocarbons of same relative molecular mass from 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.

e. Reactivity: Ethers are inert at moderate temperature. Their inertness at moderate temperatures leads to their wide use as rxn media.

3a. Partial dehydration of alcohols: Simple ethers are manufactured from alcohols by catalytic dehydration -



b. Controlled catalytic hydration of olefins



2-isopropoxypropane

4. Three uses of ethylene oxide:
- a. Ethylene oxide is used as a gaseous sterilizing agent.
 - b. It is used as an intermediate in the hydrolytic manufacture of glycol.
 - c. It is used in the preparation of nonionic emulsifying agents, plasticizers and several synthetic textiles.