(P-7)

Microwave-Assisted Synthesis of Ruthenium Hydride Complex and Its Application to Homogeneous Hydrogenation of Alkenes

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Ruthenium-hydride complex, (PCy₃)₂(CO)(Cl)RuH (1), was prepared by reaction of RuCl₃ with 1,5-cyclooctadiene (COD) and excess tricyclohexylphosphine (PCy₃) under microwave irradiation in good yield in a dramatically reduced reaction time. Homogeneous hydrogenation of terminal and cyclic alkenes catalyzed by this ruthenium-hydride complex has been investigated under microwave irradiation. The increased turnover rates were observed and the time required for the reaction was very short compared to the conventional method.

$$RuCl_3 \ 3H_2O \xrightarrow[\text{EtOH, } 150 \ ^{\circ}\text{C} \\ \text{microwave,} 5\text{-}10 \ \text{min} \\ \hline \end{bmatrix} [Ru(COD)Cl_2]_x \xrightarrow[\text{Microwave,} 5\text{-}10 \ \text{min}]{} Cy_3P \xrightarrow[\text{Ru}]{} CO \\ \text{EtOH, } 150 \ ^{\circ}\text{C} \\ \text{microwave,} 5\text{-}10 \ \text{min} \\ \end{bmatrix} PCy_3$$