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Dimethylmalonoyl peroxide – the neglected lowest homologue: simple synthesis and high reactivity

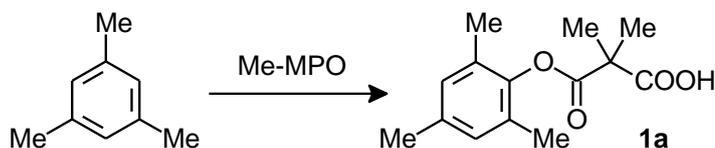
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General

The numbers of the compounds are the same as those used in the main text. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM instruments at 25°C. In all solvents Me_4Si was used as an internal standard with δ 0.000 ppm.

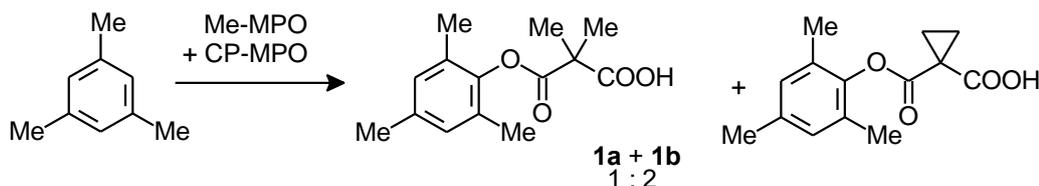
Abbreviations used: RT: room temperature, 20–22°C; Me-MPO: dimethylmalonoyl peroxide; CP-MPO: spirocyclopropylmalonoyl peroxide; HFIP: 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropanol; TFA: trifluoroacetic acid.

Oxidation of mesitylene.



A solution of mesitylene (13.9 μl , 12 mg, 0.10 mmol) and Me-MPO (19.5 mg, 0.15 mmol) in HFIP (200 μl) was stored for 24 h at RT. The mixture was evaporated in a vacuum of <1 Torr and the residue was kept in a vacuum dessicator over NaOH. The residue is adduct **1a**, white crystals, yield 25 mg (100%), m.p. 123–125°C. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.66 (s, 6H, Me_2), 2.10 (s, 6H, 2 o-ArMe), 2.25 (s, 3H, p-ArMe), 6.84 (s, 2H, 2 ArH). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 16.2, 20.8, 23.1, 50.2, 129.4, 129.8, 135.6, 145.6, 170.3, 178.8.

Competitive oxidation of mesitylene.



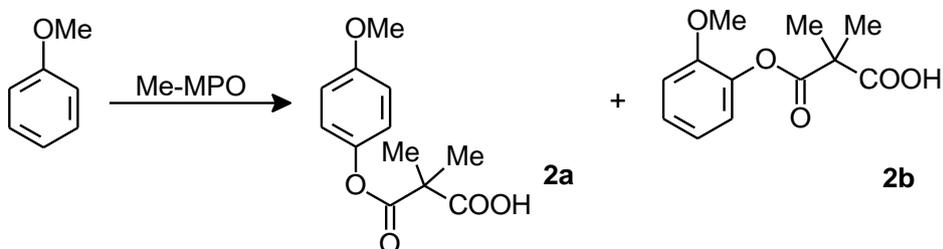
A solution of mesitylene (27.8 μl , 24 mg, 0.20 mmol), Me-MPO (39 mg, 0.30 mmol) and CP-MPO (38.4 mg, 0.30 mmol) in CDCl_3 (1.0 ml) was divided equally

into two ampoules for NMR spectra. TFA (23 μ l, 34 mg, 0.30 mmol) was added in one of the ampoules, and both ampoules were stored at RT with periodical registration of ^1H NMR spectra. The values of mesitylene conversion and the product ratio were calculated from the integral intensities of singlet signals of aromatic ring protons at δ 6.80 (3H in mesitylene), 6.85 (2H in **1a**, product from Me-MPO) and 6.89 (2H in **1b**, product from CP-MPO). The results are shown in Table S1.

Table S1. Competitive oxidations of mesitylene in CDCl_3 .

Catalyst	Reaction time, h	Conversion of mesitylene, %	1a : 1b ratio
None	10	5.9	1.00 : 2.00
None	98	29	1.00 : 2.39
TFA	10	64	1.00 : 1.89
TFA	98	100	1.00 : 1.90
Average			1.00 : 2.04

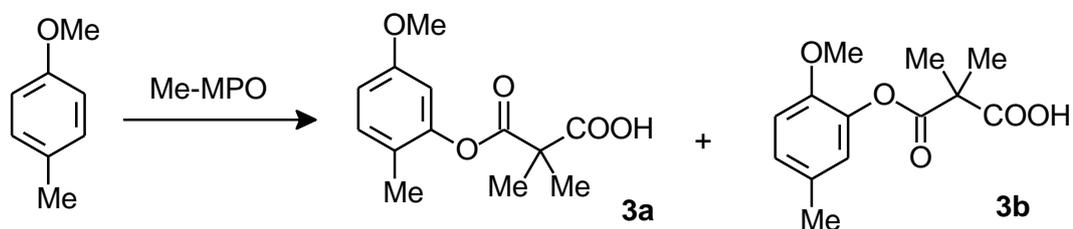
Oxidation of anisole.



A solution of anisole (43.3 μ l, 43.3 mg, 0.40 mmol), Me-MPO (78.1 mg, 0.60 mmol) and TFA (138 μ l, 205 mg, 1.8 mmol) in dichloromethane (800 μ l) was kept at 33°C for 20 hours, then diluted with dichloromethane (3-4 ml) and washed with water (3 x 1 ml). The dried (MgSO_4) solution was evaporated to dryness and subjected to chromatography on silica gel to afford a 1.6:1 (NMR) mixture of products **2a,b** as a light yellow oil, yield 75 mg (79%), R_f 0.53 (CH_2Cl_2 + 2% HCOOH). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ **2a** 1.61 (s, 6H, Me_2), 3.795 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.88 and 7.01 (2 d, 2 x 2H, J 9.0 Hz, ArH); **2b** 1.64 (s, 6H, Me_2), 3.800 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.88-7.00 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.05 (dd, 1H, J 1.6, 7.5 Hz, ArH), 7.20 (ddd, 1H, J 1.6, 7.5, 8.7 Hz, ArH). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ **2a** 22.7, 50.1 (part of), 55.6, 114.4, 122.0, 144.1, 157.4, 171.4, 178.4; **2b** 22.8, 50.1 (part of), 55.9, 112.6, 120.7, 122.5, 127.1, 139.6, 151.1, 170.7, 178.3. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5 + \text{H} /$

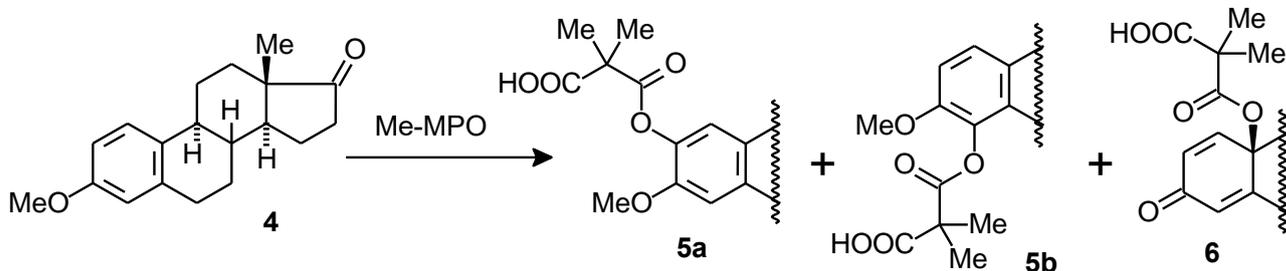
NH₄ / Na / K]⁺ 239.0914 / 256.1179 / 261.0733 / 277.0473, found 239.0921 / 256.1183 / 261.0736 / 277.0472, corr.

Oxidation of *p*-methylanisole.



A solution of *para*-methylanisole (25.2 μ l, 24.4 mg, 0.20 mmol), Me-MPO (33.8 mg, 0.26 mmol) and TFA (46 μ l, 68 mg, 0.60 mmol) in chloroform (400 μ l) was held for 24 hours at 32°C, evaporated to dryness, diluted with methylene chloride (2-3 ml) and washed with water (4 x 1 ml). The dried (MgSO₄) solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was stored in vacuum dessicator over NaOH up to a constant weight. A brownish oil was obtained containing 94% of the product mixture **3a,b**, yield 39 mg (77%), the ratio **3a**: **3b** = 1.6 : 1, R_f 0.52 (CH₂Cl₂ + 2% HCOOH). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ **3a** 1.63 (part of s, 6H, Me₂), 2.27 (s, 3H, ArMe), 3.76 (part of s, 3H, OMe), 6.85-6.87 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.84 (d, 1H, *J* 8.5 Hz, ArH), 6.99 (br.d, 1H, *J* 8.5 Hz, ArH); **3b** 1.63 (part of s, 6H, Me₂), 2.10 (s, 3H, ArMe), 3.76 (part of s, 3H, OMe), 6.57 (d, 1H, *J* 2.4 Hz, ArH), 6.72 (dd, 1H, *J* 2.7, 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.10 (d, 1H, *J* 8.4 Hz, ArH). HRMS (ESI) calculated for [C₁₃H₁₆O₅+H / NH₄ / Na / K]⁺ 253.1071 / 270.1336 / 275.0809 / 291.0603, found 253.1065 / 270.1328 / 275.0879, corr.

Oxidation of estrone methyl ether (**4**).



In each of four parallel experiments A-D estrone methyl ether **4** (56.9 mg, 0.20 mmol) and Me-MPO (33.8 mg, 0.26 mmol) were dissolved in (A) solution of TFA (46 μ l, 68 mg, 0.60 mmol) in chloroform (400 μ l); (B) HFIP (400 μ l, 3.8 mmol); (C) solution of TFA (46 μ l, 68 mg, 0.60 mmol) in HFIP (400 μ l); (D) TFA (460 μ l, 6

mmol). All the solutions A-D were kept at 30-35°C for 24 hours and evaporated in vacuum <1 Torr to dryness. From ¹H NMR spectra of product mixtures the conversions of **4** in (A) 86%, (B) 72%, (C) 84%, (D) 81%, and similar compositions of product mixtures were established. These mixtures were combined and chromatographed on silica gel (elution from CH₂Cl₂ to MeOBU^t), isolating the starting estrone ether **4** (41 mg, recovery 18%), a mixture of isomeric products **5a,b** (128 mg, 39%) and an abnormal product **6** (126 mg, 39%).

5a,b: white foam, isomer ratio 1.1 : 1.0, R_f 0.36 (hexane-EtOAc-HCOOH, 6:4:0.3). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ **5a** 0.90 (s, 3H, 18-Me), 1.63 (s, 6H, Me₂), 3.76 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.66 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.93 (s, 1H, ArH); **5b** 0.89 (s, 3H, 18-Me), 1.645 + 1.649 (each s, 3H, diastereotopic Me₂), 3.77 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.77 (d, 1H, J 8.4 Hz, ArH), 6.93 (d, 1H, J 8.4 Hz, ArH). **5a,b** ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 13.9, 21.6, 22.8, 23.0, 23.3, 25.9, 26.5, 27.1, 29.4, 31.5, 35.9, 37.6, 38.0, 43.8, 43.9, 48.1, 48.2, 50.08, 50.12, 50.3, 56.1, 109.7, 113.0, 119.4, 123.4, 130.3, 132.3, 133.1, 135.2, 137.5, 137.6, 148.9, 150.0, 170.4, 171.1, 177.9, 221.92. HRMS (ESI) calculated for [C₂₄H₃₀O₆+H / NH₄ / Na / K]⁺ 415.2115 / 432.2381 / 437.1935 / 453.1674, found 415.2110 / 432.2377 / 437.1930 / 453.1675, corr.

6: white crystals, m.p. 242-245°C (EtOAc), R_f 0.16 (hexane-EtOAc-HCOOH, 6:4:0.3). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (s, 3H, 18-Me), 1.51 + 1.52 (each s, 3H, diastereotopic Me₂), 6.20 (br.s, 1H, 4-H), 6.38 (dd, 1H, J 1.8, 10.2 Hz, 2-H), 6.93 (d, 1H, J 10.2 Hz, 1-H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.6, 22.0, 22.8, 30.9, 31.7, 32.9, 35.2, 35.6, 47.8, 49.8, 50.2, 56.7, 77.9, 124.3, 130.0, 147.3, 162.3, 170.1, 176.2, 185.6, 220.4. HRMS (ESI) calculated for [C₂₄H₃₀O₆+H / Na / K]⁺ 401.1959 / 423.1778 / 439.1517, found 401.1949 / 423.1767 / 439.1507, corr.

