

Oxidation of mesoionic oxazolones by oxygen

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The reaction of molecular oxygen with several 2,4-disubstituted oxazolones (3a-3g) is studied in the present paper. It is shown that oxygen may induce oxidative dimerization to dehydrodimers (7a-7g) via the mesoionic form of the oxazolone. The equilibration between the ketonic and the mesoionic forms. It is demonstrated that this equilibrium and the dimerization process are dependent on the properties of the solvent and the type of substitution in the oxazolones. © 1991.