

Effect of a competing π donor on the rate of AlCl_3 -catalyzed Diels-Alder reaction of 9,10-dimethylantracene with maleic anhydride

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Abstract

The catalytic effect of AlCl_3 on the Diels-Alder reaction of 9,10-dimethylantracene with maleic anhydride is dramatically weakened on addition of a competing π donor, dibutyl ether. The π, ν complex of aluminum chloride with dibutyl ether is considerably more stable than the complex with maleic anhydride; therefore, the catalytic effect is suppressed even at comparable concentrations of these π donors.

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