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Synthesis of Alkene-Terminated Acyl Ferrocene Derivatives

The co-functionalization of silicon nanoparticles (SiNPs) utilizing ferrocene derivatives has been an area of interest.1 The hydrosilation (functionalization) requires a terminal alkene. A recent report detailed a facile Friedel-Crafts acylation on ferrocene to generate a number of aliphatic acyl ferrocene derivatives.2 In an extension of this method, two novel alkene-terminated acylferrocenes were synthesized and subsequently characterized.

The reaction conditions for the Friedel-Crafts acylation of ferrocene with 4-pentenoyl chloride and 10-undecenoyl chloride were investigated and optimized. These results, along with the optimized conditions for product purification, will be presented. Both species were characterized using FT-IR, NMR, and UV-Visible spectroscopies. Details regarding the spectroscopic analysis of each species, as well as a comparison of the two products, will be provided. Additionally, an X-ray crystal structure of the 4-pentenoyl species was obtained as final confirmation of this product.

- 1. Deutsch, K., Electronic and Optical Properties of Functionalized Silicon Nanocrystals, MSc Thesis, University of Alberta, 2016.
- 2. Donahue, C. J.; Donahue, E. R. Beyond Acetylferrocene: The Synthesis and NMR Spectra of a Series of Alkanoylferrocene Derivatives. J. Chem. Educ. 2013, 90 (12), 1688–1691.

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