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# Nitration of Aromatic Compounds in Ionic Liquids



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*Workshop on Energetics – Past and Present*



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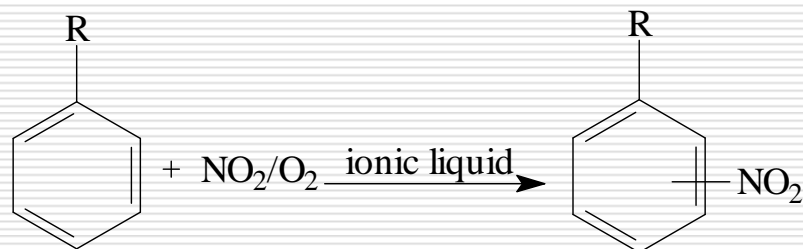


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## Nitration of simple aromatic compounds

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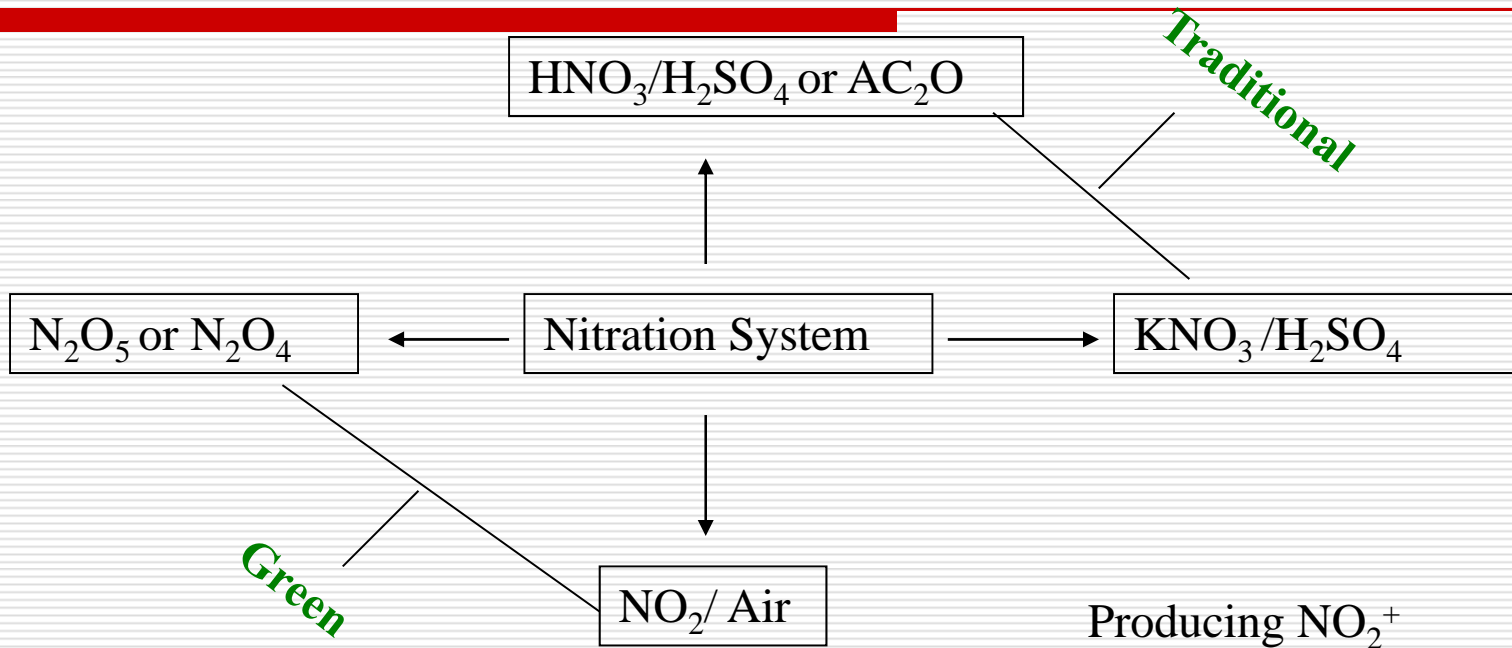
$\text{R} = \text{CH}_3, \text{H}, \text{Cl}$

**Mono-nitro product:** *Key organic intermediates or energetic materials*



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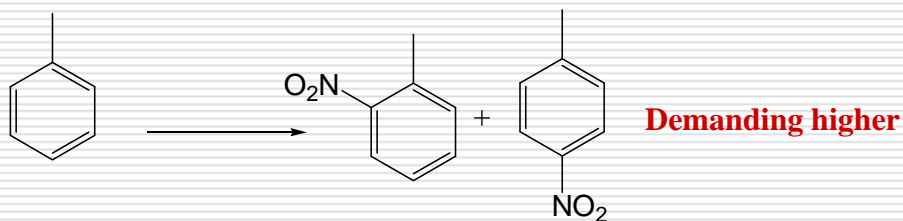
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Ionic liquid(IL): a salt in the liquid state, organic cations and inorganic anions

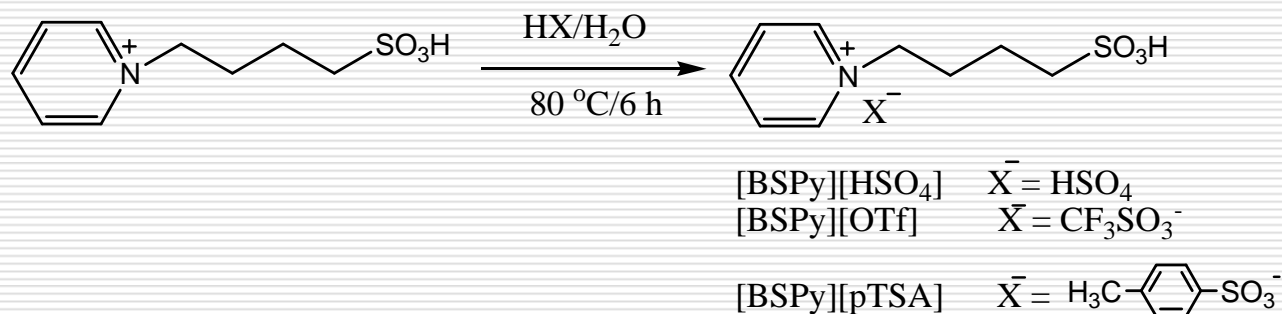
Solvent free: solvent and catalyst; recycled, easier to separated

Nitration system:  $\text{NO}_2/\text{Air}$



$\text{o/p} : 1.96$  in  $\text{HNO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$

ILs:



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**Table 1 nitration of toluene in [BSPy][HSO<sub>4</sub>]<sub>4</sub> under different conditions<sup>a</sup>**

Entry	[BSPy][HSO <sub>4</sub> ] <sub>4</sub> <sup>d</sup> (mol%)	NO <sub>2</sub> (mL)	Yield <sup>e</sup> (%)	Product distribution (%)			Ortho/ Para
				Ortho	Meta	Para	
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>1.59</b>
2	5	0.5	33.0	55.4	3.9	40.7	1.36
3	10	0.5	33.3	53.7	3.7	42.6	1.26
<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>1.27</b>
5	20	0.5	52.8	54.1	3.5	42.4	1.27
6	15	0.2	16.7	54.2	4.3	41.5	1.31
7	15	0.8	35.9	54.3	3.7	42.0	1.29
8	15	1	28.7	54.5	3.5	42.0	1.30
9 <sup>b</sup>	15	0.5	35.7	51.0	3.9	45.1	1.13
10 <sup>c</sup>	15	0.5	4.6	56.0	0	44.0	1.27

Substrate 10 mmol; reaction time and temperature: <sup>a</sup>-15 °C /30 min, then 0 °C /5 h, and rt/20 h (when the air balloon was removed).

<sup>b</sup>-15 °C /30 min, then 0 °C /5 h, and 45 °C /20 h (when the air balloon was removed). <sup>c</sup>-15 °C /30 min, then 0 °C /5 h. <sup>d</sup>mole ratio to toluene.

<sup>e</sup>Calculated by quantitative GC.



Table 2 nitration of simple aromatic compounds catalyzed by different ionic liquids

Entry	IL	R	Yield <sup>c</sup> (%)	Product distribution (%)			Ortho/Para
				Ortho	Meta	Para	
1 <sup>a</sup>	[BSPy][HSO <sub>4</sub> ]	CH <sub>3</sub>	77.0	54.2	3.3	42.5	1.27
2 <sup>a</sup>	[BSPy][OTf]	CH <sub>3</sub>	63.6	53.0	3.3	43.7	1.21
3 <sup>a</sup>	[BSPy][pTSA]	CH <sub>3</sub>	30.8	53.2	6.5	40.3	1.32
3 <sup>1a</sup>	[hexPy][PTSA]	CH <sub>3</sub>	13.4	54.5	8.0	37.5	1.45
4 <sup>b</sup>	[BSPy][HSO <sub>4</sub> ]	Cl	34.7	22.5	2.2	75.3	0.30
5 <sup>b</sup>	[BSPy][OTf]	Cl	32.6	19.8	0.5	79.7	0.25
6 <sup>b</sup>	[BSPy][pTSA]	Cl	16.4	24.3	1.8	73.8	0.33
7 <sup>b</sup>	[BSPy][HSO <sub>4</sub> ]	H	38.9	-			
8 <sup>b</sup>	[BSPy][OTf]	H	28.6	-			
9 <sup>b</sup>	[BSPy][pTSA]	H	15.4	-			
10 <sup>a</sup>	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	11.4	57.9	5.7	36.4	1.59
11 <sup>b</sup>	-	Cl	4.5	39.8	0	60.1	0.66
12 <sup>b</sup>	-	H	8.6	-			

Substrate 10 mmol, NO<sub>2</sub> 0.5 mL; reaction time and temperature

a. -15 °C /30 min, then 0 °C /5 h, and rt/20 h (when the air balloon was removed).

b. -15 °C /30 min, then 0 °C /5 h, and rt/40 h (when the air balloon was removed).

c. Calculated by quantitative GC.



**Table 3 Reusability of [BSPy][HSO<sub>4</sub>] for nitration of toluene<sup>a</sup>**

Entry	times	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	Product distribution (%)			Ortho/Para
			Ortho	Meta	Para	
1	1	77.0	54.2	3.3	42.5	1.27
2	2	76.3	53.3	3.9	42.8	1.25
3	3	74.9	54.0	4.4	41.6	1.30
4	4	70.1	53.3	4.8	41.9	1.27
5	5	67.6	53.5	4.2	42.3	1.26

<sup>a</sup>Substrate 10 mmol, -15 °C /30 min, then 0 °C /5 h, and rt/20 h (when the air balloon was removed). <sup>b</sup>Calculated by quantitative GC.

**[BSPy][HSO<sub>4</sub>] has excellent reusability**





## Conclusion

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1. sulfonic acid-functionalized ionic liquid shows good catalytic activity in Nitration of aromatic compounds with NO<sub>2</sub>/air (77% yield, 1.27 of ratio of o/p )
2. ILs could be conveniently separated with the products and reused for five times with excellent yield of mono-nitration products and paraselectivity. (77% yield, 1.27 of ratio of o/p for the first run; 67% yield and 1.26 of ratio of o/p for the fifth run)



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## Papers about ionic liquid

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1. Xiufang Qi, **Guangbin Cheng**, Chunxu Lu, Desheng Qian. *Synthetic Communications*, **2008**, 38(4): 537~545
2. Xiufang Qi, **Guangbin Cheng**, Chunxu Lu, Desheng Qian. *Central European Journal of Energetic Materials* , **2007**, 4(3): 105~113
3. **Guangbin Cheng**, Xiufang Qi, Chunxu Lu. *Central European Journal of Energetic Materials* , **2007**, 4(4): 59~65
4. Xiufang Qi, **Guangbin Cheng**, Chunxu Lu, Desheng Qian. *Chinese Journal of Applied Chemistry*, **2008**, 25(2): 147~151
5. Xiufang Qi, **Guangbin Cheng**, Xuelei Duan, Chunxu Lu, Chinese Journal of Explosive & Propellants, **2007**, 30(5):12~15
6. Xiufang Qi, **Guangbin Cheng**, Chunxu Lu, *Chinese Journal of Energetic Materials*, **2008**, 16(4): 398~400
7. Xiufang Qi, **Guangbin Cheng**, Desheng Qian. Chunxu Lu, *Chinese Journal of Applied Chemistry*, **2007**, 24(11): 1255~1259
8. Xuelei Duan, **Guangbin Cheng**, Xiufang Qi, Chunxu Lu. *Chinese Journal of Applied Chemistry*, **2009**, 26(2)
9. **Guangbin Cheng**, Xuelei Duan, Xiufang Qi, Chunxu Lu. *Catalysis Communications*, **2008**, 10, 201–204

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THANKS

