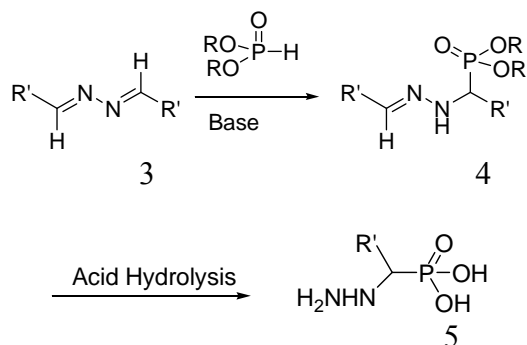
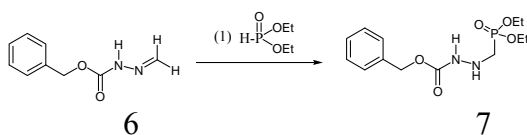


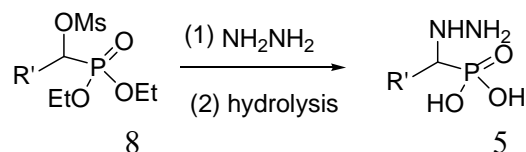
Scheme 1: Rachon's method

Maier described a method to prepare α -hydrazinomethylphosphonic acid derivatives **7** by the addition of dialkylphosphite to hydrazone **6**, the latter was prepared by the condensation of formaldehyde with a hydrazine, in which one of the amino functions was protected by benzyloxycarbonyl group which can be later removed smoothly by catalytic hydrogenation [10].

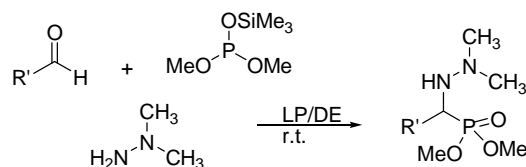
Scheme 2: Maier's method:

Unfortunately, this method does not apply to hydrazones which are derived from carbonyl compounds other than formaldehyde. As a matter of fact, it has been mentioned that other substituted hydrazones are inert to nucleophilic addition of dialkylphosphite [11-12].

Alternatively, Yuan and Maier reported that nucleophilic substitution of diethyl α -sulfonyloxyalkylphosphonates **8** by hydrazine followed by acid hydrolysis resulted in the synthesis of α -hydrazinoalkylphosphonic acids **5** [11].

Scheme 3: Yuan and Maier's method

Recently, the synthesis of α -hydrazinomethylphosphonic derivatives was reported by Heydari and co-workers, in which a one pot reaction of a three-component reaction (aldehydes, *N,N*-dimethylhydrazine and dimethyl(trimethylsilyl)phosphite) was catalyzed by lithium perchlorate/diethyl ether (LP/DE), as shown in the following Scheme 4 [13]:

Scheme 4: Heydari's synthesis

All the above mentioned methods, however, involved with the preparations of (monosubstituted) alkyl, namely (monosubstituted) methyl, analogs of α -hydrazinoalkylphosphonic acids or their derivatives. To the best of our Knowledge, no α -hydrazino-(disubstituted) methylphosphonic acids or their derivatives have been reported in the literature.

2. Results and discussion

Herein, we wish to report a convenient method for the synthesis of the derivatives of α -hydrazino-(disubstituted) methylphosphonic acids via Lewis acid promoted nucleophilic addition of dimethylphosphite on several ketone hydrazones **11** which were readily prepared by the conventional method in which benzoylhydrazide **9** is condensed with ketone **10** with or without solvent. Table 1 lists the compounds **11a** to **11e** discussed in

this report.

Scheme 5: Synthesis of hydrazone intermediates

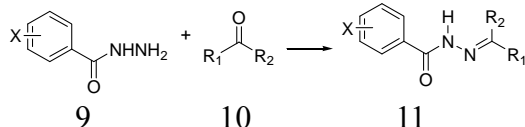


Table 1. A list of hydrazone intermediate

Entry	X	R ₁	R ₂	Yield
11a	H	Me	Me	99%
11b	4-Cl	Me	Me	82%
11c	4-NO ₂	Me	Me	98%
11d	H	-(CH ₂) ₄ -		95%
11e	H	Me	Et	93%

Hydrazones 11 was originally reacted with dimethylphosphite without adding Lewis acid as a catalyst resulting with no reaction, either at room temperature or at refluxing temperature of the solvent used. Inspired by the work of Martens et al., in which various phosphites were successfully added on heterocyclic imines mediated by Lewis acid, such as boron trifluoride etherate [14], we decided to investigate the BF₃-mediated hydrophosphonylation on our hydrazone system. In the beginning of this process, we used one equivalent of BF₃ for the hydrophosphonylation of hydrazones 11 as demonstrated in Martens experiments of preparing α -aminoalkylphosphonic derivatives. After several attempts, we found out that a catalytic amount (~ 0.5 equivalents) of BF₃ is enough for the nucleophilic addition of dimethylphosphite on the hydrazones in our experiments with reasonable yields. Table 2 shows a list of compounds, 12a to 12e, we selected to prepare.

It must be pointed out that the role of BF₃ as a catalyst for this reaction seems to be unique, because when other Lewis acids, such as SnCl₄ and TiCl₄, were utilized using similar reaction conditions to that of BF₃, no anticipated reaction was observed.

Scheme 6: Lewis acid catalyzed nucleophilic addition

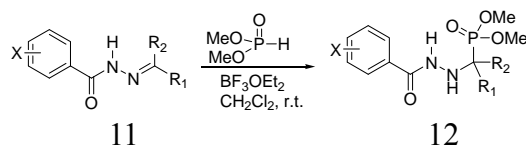


Table 2. List of synthesized α -hydrazino-(disubstituted)methylphosphonic acids

Entry	X	R ₁	R ₂	Yield ^a
12a	H	Me	Me	44%
12b	4-Cl	Me	Me	28%
12c	4-NO ₂	Me	Me	14%
12d	H	-(CH ₂) ₄ -		13%
12e	H	Me	Et	44%

a: purified yields by column chromatography

3. Conclusion

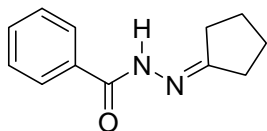
We have successfully prepared derivatives of α -hydrazino-(disubstituted) methylphosphonic acids via Lewis acid catalyzed nucleophilic addition of dimethylphosphite to several ketone hydrazones. This method represents the first synthesis of this class of compounds under a mild reaction condition. Preliminarily, the three species of Lewis acids under investigation were BF₃, SnCl₄, and TiCl₄; however only BF₃ being able to promote the reaction catalytically.

Experimental

NMR spectra were obtained by 200 MHz in CDCl₃ solvent (unless otherwise noted) and chemical shifts were reported in δ ppm. Melting points were uncorrected. IR spectra were obtained by Perkin Elmer Paragon 500 and reported in wave number. All the reagents were used as received from the commercial sources, unless otherwise noted. Mass spectra and HRMS data were obtained from the Instruments Center, National Chung Hsing University.

General procedure for the preparation of hydrazones from various ketones:

A typical reaction for the preparation of **cyclopentanone benzoylhydrazone 11d**:



Procedure:

The mixture of benzoylhydrazine (0.50 g, 3.7 mmol) and cyclopentanone (0.93 g, 11 mmole) with magnetic stirring was refluxed for 12 h. Cooled to room temperature to give a white precipitate and washed with some hexane to give a white solid, 0.70 g (yield: 95 %). mp 150-152 °C (lit.[15] mp 150-152 °C) IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3225, 1728, 1652, 1539, 1495; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.78-1.99 (4H, m), 2.30-2.60 (4H, m), 7.42-7.54 (3H, m), 7.78-7.82(2H, m), 8.45 (1H, br s).

Acetone benzoylhydrazone 11a: Compound appears as a white solid, mp 142~143.3 °C (lit [16] mp 127-129 °C IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3457, 1729, 1650, 1580, 1488; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.97 (2H, s), 2.16 (4H, s), 7.27~7.54 (3H, m), 7.81 (2H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 8.62 (1H, s).

Acetone 4-chlorobenzoylhydrazone 11b: Compound appears as a white solid, mp 186-187°C (lit [17] mp 188~189°C). IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3303, 1733, 1653, 1558, 1460; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.97 (3H, s), 2.12 (3H, s), 7.41 (2H, d, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 7.76 (2H, d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 8.68 (1H, s);

Acetone 4-nitrobenzoylhydrazone 11c: Compound appears as a pale yellow solid, mp 162.5~167.2°C. IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3435, 1733, 1543, 1490, 1349; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 2.01 (4H, s), 2.20 (2H, s), 7.80 (2H, d, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.31 (2H, d, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.69 (1H, s).

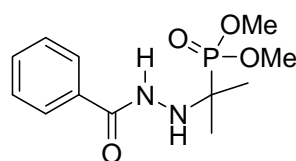
Methylethyl ketone benzoylhydrazone 11e:

Compound appears as a white solid, mp 110.5-111°C. IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3231, 1733, 1652, 1636, 1578; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.17 (3H, t, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 1.95(3H, s), 2.44~2.48 (2H, m), 7.26~7.54 (3H, m), 7.81 (2H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 8.6 (1H, s).

General Procedure for the Nucleophilic addition of dimethyl phosphite on various hydrazones:

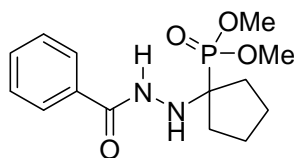
Example 1: The preparation of

2-[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)dimethylmethyl] benzoic acid hydrazide 12a:



Procedure: To a solution of acetone benzoylhydrazone (0.65g, 3.6 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) at room temperature with magnetic stirring was added dimethylphosphite (0.44 g, 4 mmol) followed by boron trifluoride etherate (0.65 g, 1.8 mmol). The mixture was stirred for further 24 h. Water (80 mL) and methylene chloride (80 mL) were added and the aqueous layer was extracted by methylene chloride (2 x 80 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 and filtered. The volatiles were evaporated on a rotary evaporator to give a white solid, 0.68 g (64% yield). A pure compound was obtained by column chromatography eluted with acetone/methylene chloride (1:3) to give a white solid, mp 134.2-135.3 °C. IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3435, 1734, 1559, 1508; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.40 (6H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 3.87 (6H, d, $J = 13$ Hz), 7.26~7.52 (3H, m), 7.79~7.84 (m, 2H), 8.56 (1H, d, $J = 6.6$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 21.11, 53.52, 53.66, 55.74, 58.96, 126.77, 128.60, 131.64, 132.44, 165.59; HRMS(EI): Calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{P}$: 286.1082, Found: 286.1086; MS-EI: 178(31), 177(100), 105(60), 77(36), 56(50).

Example 2: The preparation of
2-[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)cyclopentylmethyl] benzoic acid hydrazide 12d:



Procedure: To a solution of cyclopentanone benzoylhydrazone (1.0 g, 4.9 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) at room temperature with magnetic stirring was added dimethylphosphite (0.60 g, 5.4 mmol) followed by boron trifluoride etherate (0.73 g, 2.4 mmol). The mixture was stirred for further 24 h. Water (100 mL) and methylene chloride (25 mL) were added and the aqueous layer was extracted by methylene chloride (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$ and filtered. The volatiles were evaporated on a rotary evaporator to give a residue, 0.54 g (70 % crude yield). A pure product was obtained by column chromatography eluted with acetone/methylene chloride (1:3) as a thick oil. IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3274, 1729, 1540, 1480; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 1.26(1H, b), 1.70 ~2.01 (8H, m), 3.86 (3H, d, $J = 10.4$), 7.39~7.51 (3H, m), 7.78~7.83 (2H, m), 8.79 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 24.36, 24.57, 32.15, 32.23, 53.50, 53.64, 65.55, 68.89, 126.76, 128.59, 131.63, 132.40, 165.33; HRMS(EI): Calculated for $C_{14}H_{21}N_2O_4P$: 312.1239, Found: 312.1238; MS-EI: 204(25), 203(100), 173(17), 105(62), 77(31).

2-[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)dimethylmethyl] 4-chlorobenzoic acid hydrazide 12b:

Compound appears as a white solid, mp 94-96°C. IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3435, 1733, 1596, 1476; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 1.38 (6H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 3.85 (6H, d, $J = 10.4$ Hz), 7.40 (2H, d, $J = 11$ Hz), 7.77 (2H, d, $J = 11$ Hz), 8.78 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 21.10, 53.53, 55.69, 58.90, 128.25, 128.81, 130.80, 137.84, 164.62; HRMS(EI): Calculated for

$C_{12}H_{18}ClN_2O_4P$: 320.0693, Found: 320.0686; MS-EI: 213(35), 211(100), 195(24), 139(56), 56(34).

2-[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)dimethylmethyl] benzoic acid hydrazide 12e

Pure Compound appears as a pale yellow solid, mp 134.5~136°C IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3365, 1733, 1558, 1507, 1347; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 1.40 (6H, d, $J = 15.4$ Hz), 3.87 (6H, d, $J = 10.2$ Hz), 7.80 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 8.30 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 9.01 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 21.21, 53.67, 53.82, 55.68, 58.90, 132.84, 128.06, 138.05, 149.68, 163.25; HRMS(EI): Calculated for $C_{12}H_{18}N_3O_6P$: 331.0933, Found: 331.0940; MS-EI: 222(100), 206(60), 150(46), 104(26), 79(29), 56(31).

2-[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)ethylmethylmethyl] benzoic acid hydrazide 12e

Pure compound appears as a thick oil. IR (film) cm^{-1} : 3425, 1733, 1558, 1501; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 1.00(3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.32 (3H, d, $J = 16.2$ Hz), 1.71~1.89 (2H, m), 3.86 (6H, dd, $J = 10.2$ Hz), 7.39 ~7.51 (3H, m), 7.78~7.83 (2H, m), 8.76 (1H, d, $J = 7.4$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 6.97, 7.15, 17.23, 26.21, 53.76, 53.85, 53.90, 53.99, 58.86, 62.07, 127.01, 128.89, 131.88, 132.73, 165.16; HRMS(EI): Calculated for $C_{13}H_{21}N_2O_4P$: 300.1239, Found: 300.1244; MS-EI: 192(11), 191(100), 161(23), 105(53), 77(18).

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