# **Alcohols and epoxides**

# **B. Sc | Year (Semester-II)**

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# **Chapter-4 : Alcohols and Epoxides**

### A] Alcohols :

- "Organic compounds in which -OH group is attached to saturated carbon atom are called as alcohols."
- They are also called as alkanols.
- The general molecular formula of alcohol is C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+1</sub>OH Where, n - no. of carbon atoms.
   They are represented as R-OH Where, R - alkyl groups.
   Ex. CH<sub>3</sub>-OH, CH<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-OH
  - Methyl alcohol Ethyl alcohol

### **Classification of alcohols**

- Depending on number of -OH groups alcohols are classified as follows.
- 1) Monohydric alcohols:

Alcohols containing one hydroxyl group (-OH group) are called as monohydric alcohols.

- Ex. i) CH<sub>3</sub>-OH
   Methyl alcohol
   ii) CH<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-OH
   Ethyl alcohol
- 2) Dihydric alcohols :

Alcohols containing two hydroxyl groups (-OH group) are called as dihydric alcohols.

• Ex. 
$$CH_2 - OH$$
  
| Ethylene glycol  
 $CH_2 - OH$ 

#### • 3) Trihydric alcohols :

Alcohols containing three hydroxyl groups (-OH group) are called as trihydric alcohols.

• 4) Polyhydric alcohols:

Alcohols containing more than three hydroxyl groups (-OH group) are called polyhydric alcohols.

• Ex.  $CH_2$ -OH | (CHOH)<sub>4</sub> sorbitol |  $CH_2$ -OH

## Dihydric Alcohols : Ethylene glycol

#### **Prepration Methods :**

#### a) From Ethene (ethylene) :

Hydrolyxation of Ethene with cold dilute alkaline KMnO4 gives ethylene glycol.

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{2} \\ \parallel \\ CH_{2} \end{array} + H_{2}O + [O] \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{cold KMnO}_{4}} \begin{array}{c} CH_{2} - OH \\ \parallel \\ CH_{2} - OH \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{2} - OH \\ CH_{2} - OH \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{2} - OH \\ CH_{2} - OH \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{2} - OH \\ CH_{2} - OH \end{array}$$

b) From 1,2-dihaloalkene (1,2-dibromo ethane) :

1,2-dibromo ethane on heated with aq. Solution of  $Na_2CO_3$  gives ethylene glycol.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} H_2C - Br \\ | & + & Na_2CO_3 + & H_2O \end{array} \xrightarrow{\Delta} & \begin{array}{c} CH_2 - & OH \\ | & + & CO_2 + & 2NaBr \\ CH_2 - & OH \end{array}$$

$$1,2 \text{-dibromo ethane} & \text{ethylene glycol} \end{array}$$





### Trihydric alcohols

Alcohols containing three hydroxyl groups (-OH group) are called as trihydric alcohols.



# **Prepration methods of Glycerol**

#### a) From fats and oils

 Fats and oils on alkaline hydrolysis to give glycerol and salts of long chain acids called as soaps.



#### **b)** From Propene

Propene on reaction with chlorine, NaOH and HOCI gives glycerol.



The overall reaction take place in following four steps :

**Step-I** : Propene react with  $CI_2$  at 600<sup>o</sup>C gives ally chloride.

$$CH_{3}-CH=CH_{2} + Cl_{2} \xrightarrow{600^{0}C} H_{2}C-CH=CH_{2} + HCl$$
Propene
$$I_{CI} Allyl chloride$$

Step-II : Allyl chloride react with dil. NaOH gives allyl alcohol.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} H_2C - CH = CH_2 & + & NaOH \longrightarrow & H_2C - CH = CH_2 & + & NaCI \\ I & & dil. & & I \\ CI & & OH \\ Allyl chloride & & Allyl alcohol \end{array}$$

 Step-III : Allyl alcohol react with HOCI gives chlorohydrin according to M. rule.



Step-IV : Chlorohydrin react with dil. NaOH gives glycerol.



## **Chemical reactions of Glycerol**

### a) Reaction with HNO<sub>3</sub>

Glycerol react with  $HNO_3$  in the presence of  $H_2SO_4$  gives glyceryltrinitrate or nitroglycerine. It is used as explosive.



#### b) Reaction with HI

i. When glycerol react with small amount of HI gives allyl iodide.



ii. When glycerol react with large amount of HI gives isopropyl iodide.



#### c) Reaction with Acetyl Chloride

Glycerol react with three molecules of acetyl chloride gives glyceryl triacetate.



# **B)** Epoxides

 Epoxides are cyclic ethers in which the ethereal oxygen is a part of three membered ring. They are also called as 'Oxiranes'



#### **IUPAC nomenclature of Epoxides**









Oxirane

2-methyl oxirane

2,3-dimethyl oxirane

2-ethyl oxirane



## **Chemical reactions of Epoxides**

### a) Acid catalysed ring opening of epoxide :

- Propylene oxide (2-methyl oxirane) on acid catalysed ring opening gives propane-1,2-diol through more stable sec. carbocation.
- In acid catalysed ring opening reaction of unsymmetrical epoxide, nucleophilic attack on more substituted carbon.



#### b) Base catalysed ring opening of epoxide :

- Propylene oxide (2-methyl oxirane) on base catalysed ring opening gives 1-amino-2-propanol.
- In base catalysed ring opening reaction of unsymmetrical epoxide, nucleophilic attack on less substituted carbon.



