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**UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL PAULISTA**  
**"JÚLIO DE MESQUITA FILHO"**  
Campus de São José do Rio Preto

**Guilherme Silva Torrezan**

**Uso do glicerol, glicerol bruto da produção do  
biodiesel e outros solventes práticos na síntese de  
cetonas (E)- $\alpha,\beta$ -insaturadas**

**São José do Rio Preto**

**2018**



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Dissertação apresentada como parte dos requisitos para obtenção do título de Mestre em Química, junto ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Química, do Instituto de Biociências, Letras e Ciências Exatas da Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita Filho”, Campus de São José do Rio Preto.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Luis Octavio Regasini

Co-orientador: Prof. Dr. Marcelo Freitas Lima

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BANCA EXAMINADORA

Prof. Dr. Luis Octavio Regasini

Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita Filho” – UNESP

Prof. Dr. Luiz Carlos da Silva Filho

Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita Filho” – UNESP, Campus Bauru

Profa. Dr. Daniel Rinaldo

Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita Filho” – UNESP, Campus Bauru

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## Resumo

O glicerol é o principal co-produto da produção de biodiesel e vem sendo considerado como um solvente verde. Neste trabalho, utilizamos o glicerol e o glicerol bruto proveniente da produção de biodiesel para a síntese das cetonas  $\alpha,\beta$ -insaturadas (*2E*, *4E*)-1,5-difenilpenta-2,4-dien-1-ona (**1**) e (*2E*, *6E*)-2,6-dibenzilidenociclohexanona (**2**), utilizando reações aldólicas mono- e dicondensadas, respectivamente. As cetonas **1** e **2** sintetizadas em glicerol e glicerol bruto forneceram rendimentos superiores aos outros solventes próticos, incluindo etanol, metanol, PEG-400 e água. Para investigar as razões que justificariam a eficiência do glicerol, foram realizados os cálculos computacionais usando a teoria do funcional da densidade, que validou o mecanismo E1cB, assim como uma barreira de energia de ativação que favorece a rota sintética usando o glicerol. Além disso, o glicerol bruto de óleo de milho e girassol foram utilizados na síntese de **1** e **2** durante quatro ciclos, demonstrando rendimentos finais de **59,0** e **48,2%**, respectivamente.

**Palavras-chave:** glicerol, solventes próticos, cetonas, Condensação aldólica, Biodiesel, Química Verde

## Abstract

Glycerol is main co-product from biodiesel production and has been recognized as green solvent. Herein, we used glycerol and crude glycerol for synthesis of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones: (2*E*,4*E*)-1,5-diphenylpenta-2,4-dien-1-one (**1**) and (2*E*,6*E*)-2,6-dibenzylidenecyclohexanone (**2**), using mono- and dicondensation aldol reactions, respectively. Glycerol and crude glycerol were able to furnish **1** and **2** in yields higher than other protic solvents, including ethanol, methanol, PEG-400 and water. In order to investigate reasons for efficiency glycerol, we performed computational calculations using Density Functional Theory, which has validated E1cB mechanism, as well as favorable energy barrier using glycerol. In addition, crude glycerol from corn and sunflower oils were used in synthesis of **1** and **2** for four recycles, displaying final yields of 59.0 and 48.2%, respectively.

**Keywords:** glycerol, protic solvents, ketones, Aldol condensation, Biodiesel  
,Green chemistry



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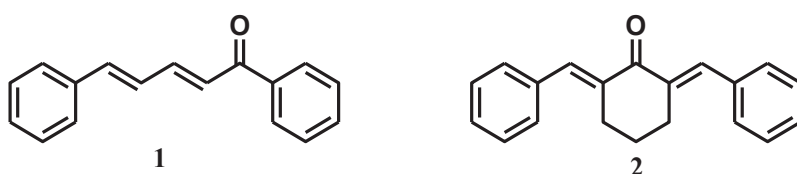
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## INTRODUCTION

$\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated ketones are versatile structural subunits useful to heterocycle synthesis, due to reactivity of carbonyl and its behavior as Michael's acceptors, undergoing 1,2- and 1,4- nucleophilic additions, respectively (AGARWAL et al., 2009; MARZINZIK; FELDER, 1998; SAMSHUDDIN; NARAYANA; KUNHANNA, 2012). Furthermore, these ketones are present in bioactive natural and synthetic products. Among these, compounds containing (2*E*,4*E*)-1,5-diphenylpenta-2,4-dien-1-one (**1**) and (2*E*,6*E*)-2,6-dibenzylidenecyclohexanone (**2**) skeletons have demonstrated several bioactivities: antibacterial, antitubercular, antiviral, anti-cancer, and anti-helmintic (AGUILERA et al., 2016; GE et al., 2013; LAMBERT et al., 2013; MOHD FAUDZI et al., 2015; POLAQUINI et al., 2017; WEI et al., 2012; WELDON et al., 2014) (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Structures of ketones **1** and **2**



Aldol reactions have been extensively used for (*E*)- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones synthesis, which involves condensation between aldehydes and ketones, under acid or basis catalysis as well as protic solvents. Although, required use of solvents possess disadvantages, including flammability, low biodegradability and toxicity (MESTRES, 2004), the selection by suitable solvent is a crucial step for organic synthesis procedures. Several solvents has been developed, which are related to principles of green chemistry (or suitable chemistry), including water, liquid ionics, polyethylenoglycol (PEG), perfluorinated solvents and glycerol (JESSOP, 2011; LENARDÃO et al., 2003).

Glycerol (or 1,2,3-propanetriol) is a versatile solvent and has been used in organic reactions due to several properties, including high boiling point, negligible vapor pressure, high polarity (able to solve organic and inorganic solutes), low-toxicity, high availability, biodegradability and biocompatibility (WOLFSON; DLUGY; SHOTLAND, 2007). It has been used in condensation reactions for synthesis of several compounds, including sulfanyl ketones (PERIN et al., 2014), *bis*(indolyl)methanes and *n*-

valeraldehyde (SILVEIRA et al., 2009; WOLFSON et al., 2009). Furthermore, glycerol has been studied as recyclable solvent by green procedures due to immiscibility in hydrophobic solvents, allowing removal of products by simple liquid-liquid extraction and successive reactions (PERIN et al., 2010; SILVEIRA et al., 2009).

Glycerol is the main co-product from transesterification reactions of acylglycerides from oils and fats (UMPIERRE; MACHADO, 2013). This reaction has been extensively used by biodiesel production, which displays rapid development, generating tremendous amount of waste glycerol (million tons per year). Thus, reasonable solutions for utilization of waste glycerol are urgent topics from an environmental, social and economical point of view (QUISPE; CORONADO; CARVALHO JR., 2013; TAN; ABDUL AZIZ; AROUA, 2013).

Herein, we investigated effects of glycerol, crude glycerol from biodiesel production and other protic solvents, including ethanol, methanol, PEG-400 and water in synthesis of ketones **1** and **2**. Yields of aldol condensation reactions were calculated by gravimetry and chromatography measurements. In order to investigate comparisons between glycerol and water yields, theoretical investigations on mechanism of aldol condensation for synthesis of **1** were proposed using density functional theory calculations. In addition, crude glycerol from corn and sunflower oils were selected for re-use studies for synthesis of **1** and **2**, respectively.



#### 4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, glycerol and crude glycerol from biodiesel production have proved to be an efficient and ecologically preferable reaction medium for synthesis of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones **1** and **2**, complying with the requirements of green chemistry, such as safe synthesis and the use of source renewable raw materials. Gravimetry and chromatography yields in glycerol and crude glycerol were higher than other protic solvents, including ethanol, methanol, PEG-400 and water. Theoretical investigations were able to suggest the mechanism of aldol reaction as E1cB, as well as make a detailed energetic comparison between glycerol and water role as a solvent on determining step of reactions. In addition, crude glycerol from corn and sunflower oils can be easily recovered and used for further mono- and dicondensation reactions and is notably relevant to green chemistry concept.

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