Meldrum's acid was first synthesized in 1908 by Meldrum, but the correct structure was elucidated only in 1948. Its unique properties and complex reactivity make it a molecule of great interest. In particular, the 5 position is nucleophilic whereas the 4 and 6 carbonyles are highly electrophilic.

Meldrum's proposed structure

confirmed structure. pKa ~ 4.9 in H₂O

5-alkylidene Meldrum's acid

- 1. Propose a synthesis for Meldrum's acid, and its alkylidene.
- 2. Meldrum's acid is thermally unstable, forming highly reactive intermediates, and releasing CO_2 and acetone. Propose a product and a mechanism for this reaction. What is the product if R' = H?

3. Meldrum's acid is an acylating agent.

Meldrum's acid was used during the synthesis of Taiwaniaguinol. Propose a mechanism.

4. Meldrum's acid alkylidenes are 10¹¹ times more reactive than their alkylidene malonate analogs. They are used for the synthesis of coumarins and chromones. Propose a mechanism.

X = EDG

The outcome depends on the substituents.

They are also excellent dienophiles.

Ref: Dumas, A.M.; Fillion, E. Acc. Chem. Res. 2010, 43, 440-454.

Meldrum's acid in carbon-carbon bond-forming processes

1. Synthesis of Meldrum's acid and its alkylidenes

2.

if R' = H Retro- hetero Diels Alder reaction

3. Meldrum's acid as an acylating agent

O-alkylation

or

X = EDG

$$OTf)_2$$
 $O-acylation$
 $OOTf)_2$
 O