Letter

Potassium Persulfate Mediated Conjugation of **B**-Ketosulfones with **TEMPO**

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Ar = Ph, 4-Tol, 4-FC₆H₄, 4-MeOC₆H₄, 4-O₂NC₆H₄, 2-naphthyl, 4-biphenyl $R = Me, Ph, 4-Tol, 4-FC_6H_4, 4-MeOC_6H_4$ = H. OH

(1) Organocatalysts: proli
 (2) Organocatalysts: proli
 (3) Bases: LDA, *i*Pr₂NEt

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Abstract We report a simple route for the preparation of α -aminoxy- β -ketosulfones in high yields by a potassium persulfate mediated α aminoxylation of β-ketosulfones with TEMPO in acetonitrile at room temperature for 12 hours.

Key words ketosulfones, alkoxyamines, aminoxylation, potassium persulfate, TEMPO, quinoxalines

 α -Alkoxyamination (α -aminoxylation) can serve as a direct method for the activation of carbon atoms in the positions α to a functional group and subsequent coupling with an oxyamino radical to generate a new carbon-oxyamino bond under oxidative conditions.¹ This is not only a key step in the preparation of functionalized materials such as fireproofing agents or rheology modifiers, but it can also be employed as a valuable route for the formation of useful building blocks or carbon-radical precursors in organic chemistry. Over the past decade, tremendous progress has been made in the oxidative radical α -alkoxyamination of carbonyl compounds (aldehydes and ketones) and 1,3-dicarbonyl synthons (β -keto esters and β -diketones) with TEMPO. Generally, these reactions are induced by oxidantmediated direct conjugation,^{2,3} organocatalyst-promoted cross-coupling of enamine intermediates,⁴ base-promoted alkylation of enolate intermediates,⁵ or by a photoinduced route (Scheme 1).⁶ Although many efforts have been devoted to synthesizing alkoxyamines, there is still a continuing need to provide a new and efficient oxidative reagent for the conjugation of 1,3-dicarbonyl synthons with TEMPO.

In continuation of our investigations on synthetic applications of β -ketosulfones,⁷ we developed the K₂S₂O₈ (2a)mediated α -alkoxyamination of the β -ketosulfone **1a** with



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TEMPO (3a) in MeCN at room temperature for 12 hours. Recently, Luo and Deng reported a synthetic route to vicinal tricarbonyl compounds through DDQ-mediated C-H activated α -oxidation of β -keto esters with TEMPO; however, they only examined one case of a β -ketosulfone skeleton under these conditions (Scheme 2).⁸ Although DDQ is a common oxidant and is often used in various oxidations, the reported isolated yield was low (49%). On the basis of our work, potassium persulfate $(K_2S_2O_8)$ provides a better yield (80%). Taking into account the yield of the conjugated



Scheme 2 α-Alkoxyamination of a β-ketosulfone with TEMPO

В

adducts and the costs of the reagents DDQ and $K_2S_2O_8$, we believe that $K_2S_2O_8$ is the optimal reagent for the overall process.

Initially, the reaction of β -ketosulfone **1a** with 1.1 equivalents of K₂S₂O₈ (**2a**) and 1.2 equivalents of TEMPO (**3a**) in MeCN at room temperature for 12 hours gave the alkoxyamine **4a** in 80% yield (Table 1, entry 1). When we performed the same reaction with 1.1 equivalents of DDQ (**2b**), *t*-BuOOH (**2c**), H₂O₂ (**2d**), Oxone (**2e**), *i*-BuONO (**2f**), NaOCI (**2g**), or (diacetoxyiodo)benzene (DIB; **2h**), we did not obtain better yields of the desired alkoxyamine **4a** (entries 2–8). When CAN (**2i**) was used as the oxidant, we obtained a 39% yield of alkoxyamine **4a** along with a 21% yield of benzoic acid (entry 9). These studies confirmed that K₂S₂O₈ (**2a**) is an appropriate oxidant for the formation of alkoxyamine **4a**. On increasing the amount of TEMPO from 1.1 to 2.0 equivalents, no obvious increase in the yield was ob-





Entry	Oxidant (equiv)	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^b (%) of 4a 80	
1	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	MeCN	25	12		
2	DDQ (2b) (1.1)	MeCN	25	12	45	
3	tBuOOH (2с) (1.1)	MeCN	25	12	<5°	
4	H ₂ O ₂ (2d) (1.1)	MeCN	25	12	<5°	
5	Oxone (2e) (1.1),	MeCN	25	12	<5°	
6	<i>i-</i> BuONO (2f) (1.1),	MeCN	25	12	<5°	
7	NaOCI (2g) (1.1),	MeCN	25	12	<5°	
8	DIB (2h) (1.1),	MeCN	25	12	<5°	
9	CAN (2i) (1.1)	MeCN	25	12	39 ^d	
10	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (2.0)	MeCN	25	12	75	
11	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	CH_2CI_2	25	12	37	
12	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	EtOAc	25	12	45	
13	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	MeCN	25	5	36 ^e	
14	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	MeCN	25	40	52	
15	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	MeCN	82	5	65	
16	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2a) (1.1)	MeCN	82	12	35	
17	$K_2 S_2 O_8 (2a) (0)$	MeCN	25	40	8 ^f	

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.0 mmol), TEMPO (1.2 equiv), solvent (5 mL), open vessel.

^b Isolated yields.

^c **1a** was recovered (85–92%).

^d 21% of benzoic acid was isolated.

e 48% of **1a** was recovered.

f 81% of **1a** was recovered

served (entry 10). When MeCN was replaced by CH_2Cl_2 or EtOAc, the yields were 37% and 45%, respectively (entries 11 and 12). A reduction in the reaction time from 12 to 5 hours, gave only a 36% yield of **4a**, with 48% recovery of **1a** (entry 13) whereas increasing the reaction time to 40 h gave a slightly reduced yield of **4a** of 52% (entry 14). Increasing the temperature from room temperature to the reflux temperature gave a better yield (65%) after five hours, whereas the yield fell to 35% after 12 hours (entries 15 and 16). Interestingly, traces of **4a** (8%) were isolated at room temperature after 40 hours in the absence of $K_2S_2O_8$ (**2a**) in open-vessel conditions (entry 17). On the basis of a higher yield, we believe that $K_2S_2O_8$ (1.1 equiv) and MeCN are an

with TEMPO. Having determined the optimal reaction conditions (Table 1, entry 1), we explored the conversion of other substrates (Table 2).⁹ The $K_2S_2O_8$ (**2a**)-mediated α -aminoxylation of β -ketosulfones **1a**-**k** with TEMPO analogues **3a** and **3b** in MeCN at room temperature for 12 h provided the corresponding α -aminoxy- β -ketosulfones **4a**-**n** in yields of 50–88%. A diversity of electron-withdrawing and electron-

optimal combination for the conjugation of β -ketosulfones

Table 2 Synthesis of Alkoxyamines 4a-n^a



Entry		Ar	R		Y	Product	Yield ^ь (%)
1	1a	Ph	Me	3a	Н	4a	80
Н	1b	Ph	Me	3a	Н	4b	83
н	1c	Ph	4-Tol	3a	Н	4c	83
Н	1d	4-Tol	4-Tol	3a	Н	4d	85
Н	1e	$4-FC_6H_4$	4-Tol	3a	Н	4e	80
Н	1f	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄	4-Tol	3a	Н	4f	56
Н	1g	$4-O_2NC_6H_4$	4-Tol	3a	Н	4g	80
Н	1h	2-naphthyl	4-Tol	3a	Н	4h	85
Н	1i	Ph	$4-FC_6H_4$	3a	Н	4i	81
Н	1j	Ph	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄	3a	Н	4j	52
н	1a	Ph	4-Tol	3b	OH	4k	81
Н	1e	$4-FC_6H_4$	4-Tol	Зb	ОН	41	88
Н	1f	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄	4-Tol	3b	ОН	4m	50
н	1k	4-biphenyl	4-Tol	3b	ОН	4n	80

^a Reaction conditions: **1** (1.0 mmol), **2a** (1.1 mmol), **3** (1.2 mmol), MeCN (5 mL), 12 h, r.t. ^b Isolated yield. neutral groups Ar and R on the sulfone **1** were well tolerated; however, when Ar or R was an electron-donating group, the corresponding products **4f**, **4j**, and **4m** were obtained in slightly lower yields (56, 52, and 50%, respectively; Table 2, entries 6, 10, and 13).

One the basis of these results, we propose a mechanism in which the reaction proceeds by a single-electron transfer (SET) process (Scheme 3).¹⁰ Initially, an SO₄⁻⁻ anion radical is formed by hemolytic cleavage of K₂S₂O₈. **1a'**, the enol form of **1a** formed by keto-enol tautomerization, undergoes SET with the SO₄⁻⁻ to give radical **A1**. Resonance of the delocalized electron in the radical **A1** then gives the secondary carbon radical **A2**. Finally, coupling of **A2** and TEMPO (**3a**) affords **4a**.^{2a} During the process, O-O bond-forming and bond-cleavage reactions of TEMPO and KSO₄⁻⁻ also occur.



By changing the α -substituent from a sulfonyl group to a carbonyl group (β -diketones **5a** and **5b**) or an ethyl ester group (β -keto ester **5c**), we obtained the alkoxyamines **6a–c** in 47, 53, and 31% yield, respectively (Scheme 4). The α aminoxy- β -ketosulfones **4a–n** provided better yields (50– 88%) than did the α -aminoxy- β -diketones **6a** and **6b**^{6d} or the α -aminoxy- β -keto ester **6c**.^{2d}



As an extension of our $K_2S_2O_8$ -mediated α -alkoxyamination of β -ketosulfones with TEMPO, we prepared a series of quinoxalines **7a-c** (Scheme 5). Quinoxaline is a versatile scaffold present in useful synthetic intermediates¹¹ and bioactive molecules.¹² The most popular reported procedures for syntheses of quinoxalines involve the condensation of 1,2-diaminobenzenes with various polar *ortho*-carbon units, such as α -methylene aldehydes or ketones, 1,2diketones, epoxides, vicinal diols, diazoketones, alkenes, or alkynes.¹³ Among these starting substrates, no examples of an α -aminoxy- β -ketosulfone has been reported for the formation of a quinoxaline. Condensation of α -aminoxy- β -ketosulfone **4c**, **4d**, or **4f** with benzene-1,2-diamine in refluxing 1,4-dioxane for 10 hours gave the corresponding quinoxaline **7a–c** (62–71%)¹⁴ through a tandem process involving condensation of **4c**, **4d**, or **4f** with benzene-1,2diamine and sequential intramolecular desulfonylation of intermediate **I** and aromatization of intermediate **II**.



In summary, we have developed a simple route to α -aminoxy- β -ketosulfones by $K_2S_2O_8$ -mediated α -aminoxylation of β -ketosulfones **1** with TEMPO **3** in MeCN at room temperature for 12 hours. The products **4** were obtained in good to high yields. The $K_2S_2O_8$ -mediated α -aminoxylation of 1,3-dicarbonyl synthons **5** (β -diketones and β -keto ester) gave the corresponding products **6** in moderate yields. Moreover, quinoxalines **7** were synthesized by condensation of the α -aminoxy- β -ketosulfone products **4** with 1,2diaminobenzene. Further investigations on synthetic applications of β -ketosulfones will be conducted and published in due course.

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Supporting Information

Supporting information (experimental procedures and scanned photocopies of NMR (CDCl₃) spectral data) for this article is available online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0036-1588317.

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(9) Alkoxyamines 4; General Procedure

 $K_2S_2O_8$ (**2a**, 300 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added to a solution of the appropriate β -keto sulfone **1** (1.0 mmol) and TEMPO analogue **3** (1.2 mmol) in MeCN (5 mL) at r.t., and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was diluted with H_2O (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL) and the organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried, filtered, and concentrated to afford the crude product, which was purified by chromatography [silica gel, hexanes–EtOAc (10:1 to 6:1)]

2-(Methylsulfonyl)-1-phenyl-2-[(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy]ethanone (4a)

Colorless gum; yield: 282 mg (80%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.22 (s, 1 H), 3.11 (s, 3 H), 1.57 (br s, 6 H), 1.43 (br s, 2 H), 1.31 (br s, 4 H), 1.18 (br s, 3 H), 0.86 (br s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.15, 136.34, 133.71 (2 C), 128.65 (2 C), 128.43 (2 C), 94.78, 61.70, 60.26, 40.46, 40.25, 37.16, 33.52, 32.57, 19.81, 16.25. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + 1]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₈-NO₄S: 354.1739; found: 354.1743;

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