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Direct Coupling Reaction between Alcohols and Silyl Compounds: Enhancement of Lewis Acidity of Me_3SiBr Using $InCl_3$

Takahiro Saito, Yoshihiro Nishimoto, Makoto Yasuda, and Akio Baba*

Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

baba@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

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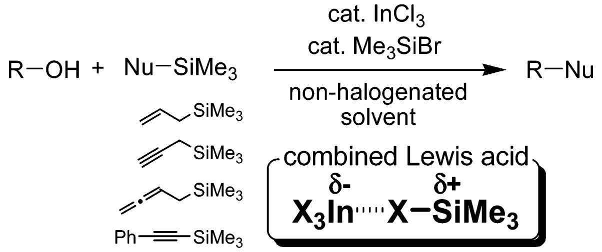

The combination of $InCl_3$ and Me_3SiBr provided an enhanced Lewis acid system that can be used to promote a wide range of direct coupling reactions between alcohols and silyl nucleophiles in non-halogenated solvents, such as hexane or MeCN. The enhanced Lewis acidity of this system was measured by the ^{13}C NMR in terms of the coordination to an alcohol. Moreover, the interaction between Me_3SiBr and the In(III) species was revealed by ^{29}Si NMR spectral analysis. Highly chemoselective allylations toward a hydroxyl moiety over ketone and acetoxy ones have been demonstrated.

Introduction

Lewis acid-promoted carbon−carbon bond formation is one of the most important processes in organic syntheses. Classically, Friedel−Crafts, ene, Diels−Alder, Mukaiyama, and Hosomi−Sakurai reactions have been mediated by typical Lewis acids, such as $AlCl_3$, $TiCl_4$, $BF_3{\cdot}OEt_2$, or $SnCl_4$, in which the elements used as Lewis acids have all its own characteristic features.[1] Among them, group 13 elements, aluminum, and boron are the most traditional and representative Lewis acids, but any practical utilizations of indium species had been scarcely exploited because of its lower Lewis acidity.[2] Over the past decade, indium species, however, have been paid much attention owing to their moderate Lewis acidity and water tolerance, applying to catalytic reactions under protic conditions.[3] In a series of these reactions, the protection of alcohols has been reported, but there are few reports for the application for C−C bond formation using alcohols.[4] Since alcohols are common and important compounds for natural products and key precursors for other functionalized compounds, such as carbonyls, ethers, and alkenes, the C−C bond formation by direct substitution of their hydroxyl groups would be a quite important process to provide useful building blocks in organic synthesis. However, the low leaving ability of the hydroxyl group often retards the direct substitution.[5]

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* To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel: +81-6-6879-7384. Fax: +81-6-6879-7387.

(1) For an excellent and comprehensive use of Lewis acids in organic synthesis, see: *Lewis Acids in Organic* Synthesis; Yamamoto, H., Ed.; Wiley-VCH: Weinheim, Germany, 2000; Vols. 1 and 2.

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10.1021/jo061512k CCC: $33.50

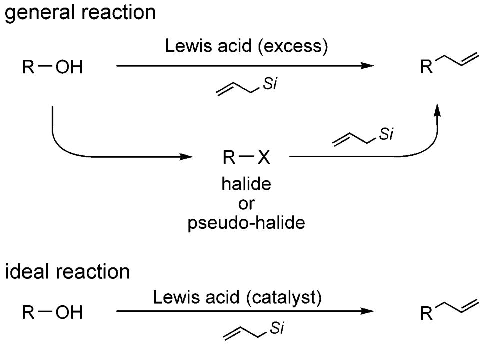
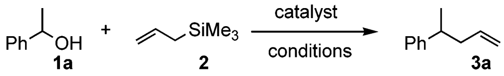


FIGURE 1. Lewis acid-mediated allylation of alcohol.

Direct substitution of alcohols with allylsilane was first demonstrated by Cella,[6] which some groups have also developed.[7] All examples, however, have required excessive amounts of Lewis acids. To avoid the excessive use of acid, the hydroxy moieties have to be transformed into their corresponding good leaving groups, such as halogens or related moieties, before treatment with nucleophiles (Figure 1).[8−11] The development of an efficient and practical method for the catalytic substitution of alcohols is in demand and still a challenging goal.

Although a few examples of catalytic allylations of alcohols with allyltrimethylsilane were reported using such acids as $HN(SO_2F)_2$[12] and $B(C_6F_5)_3$,[10] these procedures are limited to the employment of alcohols possessing strong cation-stabilizing aromatic substituents.[13,14] We have recently overcome this problem by developing the $InCl_3$-catalyzed direct substitution of various alcohols.[15] In any case of direct allylations, including ours, the use of environmentally hazardous halogen-containing solvents, such as dichloromethane or 1,2-dichloroethane, is essential. In this context, the development of a new direct substitution method of alcohols and the replacement of the halogenated solvent are both very important objectives. Recently, we have preliminarily developed a non-halogenated version promoted by the combination catalyst of $InCl_3$ and Me_3SiBr.[16] Herein, we wish to report the systematic studies, including NMR observation, of combined active species and some characteristic applications to chemoselective reactions.

TABLE 1. Allylation by Using Combined Lewis Acid[a]



entry	catalyst (mol %)	solvent	conditions	yield (%)
1[b]	$InCl_3$ (5)	$ClCH_2CH_2Cl$	80 °C, 3 h	51
2	$InCl_3$ (5)	hexane	reflux, 8 h	0
3	$InCl_3$ (5) + Me_3SiBr (10)	hexane	rt, 2 h	77
4	Me_3SiBr (10)	hexane	rt, 8 h	0
5	$InCl_3$ (5) + Me_3SiBr (10)	CH_2Cl_2	rt, 2 h	66
6	$InCl_3$ (5) + Me_3SiBr (10)	toluene	rt, 2 h	66
7	$InCl_3$ (5) + Me_3SiBr (10)	MeCN	rt, 2 h	22
8	$InCl_3$ (5) + Me_3SiBr (10)	Et_2O	rt, 2 h	2
9	$InCl_3$ (5) + Me_3SiBr (10)	THF	rt, 2 h	0

[a] Reactions were carried out in a solvent (1 mL) with allylsilane **2** (2.0 mmol) and alcohol **1a** (1.0 mmol). [b] See ref 15a.

Results and Discussion

1. Catalytic Allylation of Alcohols with Allyltrimethylsilane. We have previously reported the direct allylation of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) with allyltrimethylsilane (**2**) in 1,2-dichloroethane at 80 °C in the presence of a catalytic amount of $InCl_3$ (Table 1, entry 1).[15a] When the solvent was changed to hexane, no reaction was observed even under reflux conditions (entry 2). To our delight, however, the combined use of $InCl_3$ and Me_3SiBr as a catalyst was found to give the desired product **3a** in 77% yield at room temperature (entry 3). Since Me_3SiBr did not exhibit any catalytic ability on its own, the combination was essential for the allylation (entry 4).[17] It is noteworthy that halogenated solvent was no longer requisite because only moderate yield was obtained in CH_2Cl_2 (entry 5). While the reaction in toluene gave **3a** in 66% yield (entry 6), the use of coordinative solvents resulted in low yields (entries 7−9). In particular, strong coordination of Et_2O and THF completely shut down the reaction. Other Lewis acids, such as $BF_3{\cdot}OEt_2$, $AlCl_3$, $GaCl_3$, $Yb(OTf)_3$,[18] $Sc(OTf)_3$, $ZnCl_2$, $BiCl_3$,[19]

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(17) Mukaiyama and we have reported the $InCl_3-Me_3SiCl$ combined Lewis acid catalyst for Hosomi−Sakurai, Friedel−Crafts, and Mukaiyama aldol reaction in which the Lewis acidity of the silicon center would be enhanced by the coordination of chlorine on silicon to the indium. See: (a) Onishi, Y.; Ito, T.; Yasuda, M.; Baba, A. *Tetrahedron* **2002**, *58*, 8227−8235. (b) Onishi, Y.; Ito, T.; Yasuda, M.; Baba, A. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, 1578−1581. (c) Miyai, T.; Onishi, Y.; Baba, A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 6291−6294. (d) Miyai, T.; Onishi, Y.; Baba, A. *Tetrahedron* **1999**, *55*, 1017−1026. (e) Mukaiyama, T.; Ohno, T.; Nishimura, T.; Han, J. S.; Kobayashi, S. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1991**, *64*, 2524−2527. (f) Mukaiyama, T.; Ohno, T.; Han, J. S.; Kobayashi, S. *Chem. Lett.* **1991**, *20*, 949−952. For other reports of combination of indium and silicon, see: (g) Lee, P. H.; Seomoon, D.; Kim, S.; Nagaiah, K.; Damle, S. V.; Lee, K. *Synthesis* **2003**, 2189−2193. (h) Lee, P. H.; Lee, K.; Sung, S.-y.; Chang, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 8646−8649. (i) Sakai, N.; Annaka, K.; Konakahara, T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2006**, *47*, 631−634. (j) Bandini, M.; Fagioli, M.; Melloni, A.; Umani-Ronchi, A. *Synthesis* **2003**, 397−402.

(18) For a report of the combination of $Yb(OTf)_3-Me_3SiCl$ or $Yb(OTf)_3-Me_3SiOTf$, see: Yamanaka, M.; Nishida, A.; Nakagawa, M. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 159−161.

(19) Recently, direct allylation of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) was achieved using $BiCl_3$ in CH_2Cl_2. See: De, S. K.; Gibbs, R. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 8345−8350.

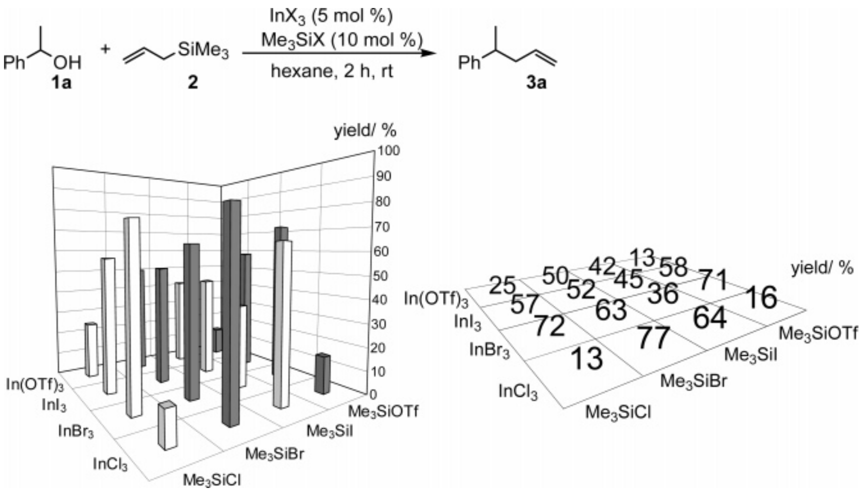


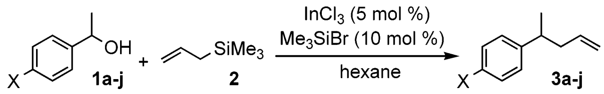
FIGURE 2. Screening of In(III) species and Me$_3$SiX for the allylation of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**).

and B(C$_6$F$_5$)$_3$, hardly exhibited catalytic activity in hexane even when combined with Me$_3$SiBr.[20]

To determine the optimal combination, screening of indium and silyl species was undertaken using the reaction of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) with allylsilane **2** in hexane, and the results are illustrated in Figure 2. A combination of InCl$_3$ and Me$_3$SiBr gave the highest yield (77%), while the allylation with InBr$_3$−Me$_3$SiCl[17h,i] and InBr$_3$−Me$_3$SiOTf systems was also effective.[21] The use of Me$_3$SiI resulted in lower yields of **3a** along with some side products because of its very high reactivity. In contrast, the combination of InCl$_3$ and Me$_3$SiOTf could not complete the allylation, and the starting alcohol was considerably recovered. In general, Lewis acidity of Me$_3$SiX is arranged in the following order: Me$_3$SiCl $<$ Me$_3$SiBr $\ll$ Me$_3$SiOTf $<$ Me$_3$SiI.[22] Therefore, the higher activity of the Me$_3$SiOTf system than that of Me$_3$SiCl or Me$_3$SiBr had been expected, but this system exhibited only low activity. It is noteworthy that the activity of the combined Lewis acid does not necessarily depend on the Lewis acidity of the silicon. We believe that the appropriate combination between indium and silicone species is essential for the allylation, and that low oxophilicity and high halophilicity of indium are the reasons of the reactivity observed. On the whole, the combination of InCl$_3$ and Me$_3$SiBr can act as the most active catalyst in this allylation system.

Allylation of 1-arylethanols **1** bearing various substituents was investigated under the optimized conditions, and the results are summarized in Table 2. The yield of allylated product **3a** increased up to 87% by slow addition of **1a** to the solution of 3 equiv of allylsilane **2** at 50 °C (entries 1 and 2). The alcohols **1b** and **1c** bearing the electron-donating groups were allylated in excellent yield (entries 3 and 4). The phenolic OH could tolerate the allylation conditions, in which MeCN solvent was required because of the poor solubility of **1d** in hexane (entry 5). In this case, the high reactivity of **1d** showed that the reaction was unaffected by coordination of MeCN. Alcohols **1e**−**h** possessing halogen substituents also gave the allylated products **3e**−**h** in high yields (entries 6−9). OTf-substituted alcohol **1i** could provide the desired product **3i**, although severe conditions were required (entry 10). A strong electron-withdrawing NO$_2$ moiety strongly disturbed the reaction to give only 19% yield (entry 11). Because the reactivity pattern observed is similar to that of the allylation using benzylic chlorides[8a] or ethers[8b] reported by Mayr, our system would also proceed via the S$_N$1 mechanism.

TABLE 2. Allylation of Various 1-Arylethanols by Using Combined Lewis Acid[a]



entry	X	conditions	yield (%)
1	H (**1a**)	rt, 2 h	77
2[b,c]		50 °C, 2 h	87
3	Me (**1b**)	50 °C, 3 h	91
4[c]	OMe (**1c**)	50 °C, 3 h	>99
5[c,d]	OH (**1d**)	rt, 1 h	>99
6	F (**1e**)	rt, 3 h	92
7[c]	Cl (**1f**)	reflux, 3 h	>99
8	Br (**1 g**)	50 °C, 3 h	90
9	I (**1h**)	reflux, 3 h	87
10[c,e]	OTf (**1i**)	50 °C, 6 h	71
11[f]	NO$_2$ (**1j**)	reflux, 3 h	19

[a] Reactions were carried out in hexane (1−2 mL) with allylsilane **2** (2.0 mmol), alcohol **1** (1.0 mmol), Me$_3$SiBr (0.1 mmol), and InCl$_3$ (0.05 mmol). [b] A hexane solution of alcohol was added dropwise. [c] Allylsilane (3 mmol). [d] MeCN was used as a solvent. [e] Me$_3$SiBr (1.0 mmol). [f] Me$_3$SiBr (0.2 mmol).

Further, a variety of alcohols were subjected to allylation using the InCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr system (Table 3). The tertiary and primary benzylic alcohols **4a** and **4b** gave the corresponding products **5a** and **5b** in 75 and 68% yields, respectively (entries 1 and 2). Benzhydrol (**4c**) was quantitatively transformed to the allylated product **5c** (entry 3). The yield of allylation of the alcohol bearing ferrocenyl moiety **4d** was increased to 94% in MeCN (entry 4) as compared to the reaction in other solvents (e.g., 12 and 58% yields in hexane and toluene, respectively[16]). 2-Cyclohexen-1-ol (**4e**) provided the desired product **5e** in 81% (entry 5). The allylation of 1-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-ol (**4f**) took place at the 3-position to give **5f** in 98%. This result apparently suggests the involvement of an allylic carbocation. The two aliphatic alcohols, exo-norborneol (**4g**) and 1-adamantanol (**4h**), gave the allylated products **5g** and **5h**, respectively (entries 7 and 8). Unfortunately, a simple aliphatic alcohol, such as

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(20) See Supporting Information.

(21) Recently, direct allylation of alcohol using InBr$_3$ was reported, but only a dimeric ether was obtained by sole use of InBr$_3$ (see ref 11).

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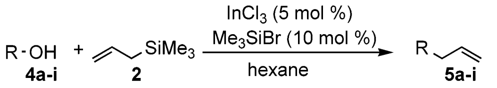
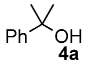
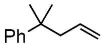
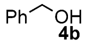
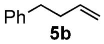
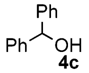
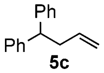
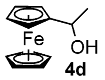
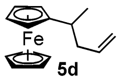
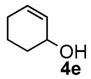
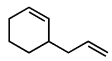
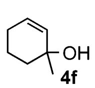
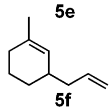
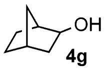
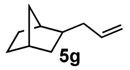
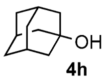
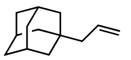
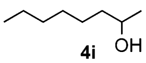
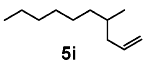
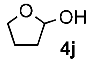
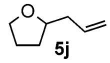
TABLE 3. Scope of Allylation of Alcohol by Using Combined Lewis Acid[a]



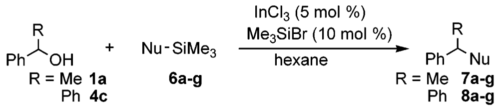
entry	alcohol	conditions	product	yield (%)
1[b,c]	 4a	50 °C, 0.5 h	 5a	75
2[b,d]	 4b	reflux, 4 h	 5b	68
3	 4c	50 °C, 1 h	 5c	>99
4[c,f]	 4d	rt, 2 h	 5d	94
5[c]	 4e	reflux, 1 h	 5e	81
6[f]	 4f	0 °C, 3 h	 5f	98
7[e]	 4g	reflux, 3 h	 5g	22
8[d,e]	 4h	reflux, 3 h	 5h	66
9[d,e]	 4i	reflux, 3 h	 5i	0
10[f]	 4j	reflux, 2 h	 5j	85

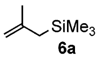
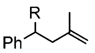
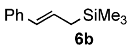
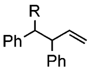
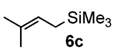
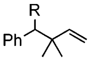
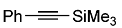
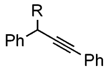
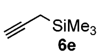
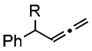
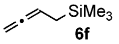
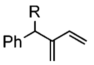
[a] Reactions were carried out in hexane (1−2 mL) with allylsilane **2** (2.0 mmol), alcohol **4** (1.0 mmol), Me_3SiBr (0.1 mmol), and $InCl_3$ (0.05 mmol). [b] A hexane solution of alcohol was added dropwise. [c] Allylsilane (3 mmol). [d] Allylsilane (4 mmol). [e] Me_3SiBr (0.5 mmol). [f] MeCN was used as a solvent.

2-octanol (**4i**), was not applicable for the reaction system (entry 9). Even the direct allylation of a hemiacetal, which has a high reactivity due to the formation of an oxocarbenium ion, has been reported to require an excess amount of acids.[23] In contrast, our system catalytically promoted the allylation of hemiacetal **4j** in high yield (entry 10).

2. Substitution of Alcohols with Various Silyl Nucleophiles. A series of silyl nucleophiles **6**, including allylic, allenyl, alkynyl, and propargyl moieties, were allowed to react with 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) or benzhydrol (**4c**) in non-halogenated solvent using the combination of $InCl_3$ and Me_3SiBr (Table 4). Methallylation of **1a** and **4c** with **6a** furnished the desired products **7a** and **8a** in high yields, although 20 mol % of Me_3SiBr was required in the case of **1a** (entries 1 and 2). It is interesting that γ-substituted allylsilanes **6b** and **6c** gave the highly substituted products **7b**, **8b**, **7c**, and **8c** in exclusive γ-addition manner (entries 3−6). Alkynylsilane **6d** provided the corresponding adducts **7d** and **8d** (entries 7 and 8). Selective formation of allenes from propargylsilane **6e** took place through exclusive γ-addition (entries 9 and 10). The transformation of allenylmethylsilane **6f** into the dienes **7f** and **8f** was the first demonstration under neutral conditions (entries 11 and 12).

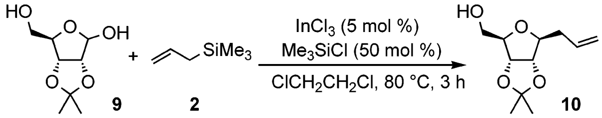
TABLE 4. Coupling of Alcohol with Various Nucleophiles[a]



entry	alcohol	Nu-$SiMe_3$	conditions	product	yield/ (%)
1[b,c]	R = Me (**1a**)	 6a	50 °C, 12 h	 (**7a**)	74
2[b]	Ph (**4c**)		50 °C, 12 h	(**8a**)	94
3	Me (**1a**)	 6b	50 °C, 3 h	 (**7b**)	86 (61:39)
4	Ph (**4c**)		reflux, 2h	(**8b**)	74
5[b]	Me (**1a**)	 6c	reflux, 2 h	 (**7c**)	85
6[b]	Ph (**4c**)		reflux, 2 h	(**8c**)	69
7[b]	Me (**1a**)	 6d	reflux, 4 h	 (**7d**)	46
8	Ph (**4c**)		reflux, 4 h	(**8d**)	71
9	Me (**1a**)	 6e	reflux, 1 h	 (**7e**)	36
10	Ph (**4c**)		50 °C, 4 h	(**8e**)	41
11[b]	Me (**1a**)	 6f	reflux, 7 h	 (**7f**)	39
12[b]	Ph (**4c**)		reflux, 7 h	(**8f**)	72

[a] Reactions were carried out in hexane (1−2 mL) with nucleophile **6** (2.0 mmol), alcohol **1a** or **4c** (1.0 mmol), Me_3SiBr (0.1 mmol), and $InCl_3$ (0.05 mmol). [b] Nucleophile (3 mmol). [c] Me_3SiBr (0.2 mmol).

3. Application to Chemoselective Reactions. Next, for an application of the direct substitution of hydroxyl moieties, we demonstrated saving steps in the allylation of hemiacetal. In the total synthesis of pinolidoxin by Fürstner and co-workers, ribose derivative **9** was transformed into the allylated adduct after the acetylation of both hydroxyl moieties, in which the deprotection of another acetoxy moiety was required after the allylation of the target acetal moiety.[24] In contrast, in our catalyst system, the direct transformation from the hemiacetal **9** into **10** could be achieved in a single step with high stereoselectivity, in which the protection of the primary alcohol moiety was never required (eq 1). We could have saved the protection and deprotection steps by the use of the indium and silicon system, although the yield is in a range similar to that of the multistep one.



44% (83 : 17)

(1)

On the basis of this result, we tried to compare the reactivity between hydroxyl moieties and acetoxy ones. Gevorgyan et al. reported that a $B(C_6F_5)_3$ catalyst readily promoted the allylation of an acetoxy moiety, while the reaction toward hydroxyl moieties hardly took place.[10] Apparently, acetylation is again an important step in increasing the leaving ability of a hydroxyl

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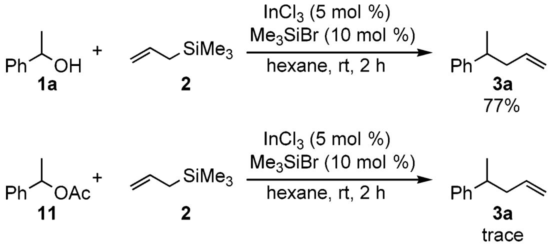
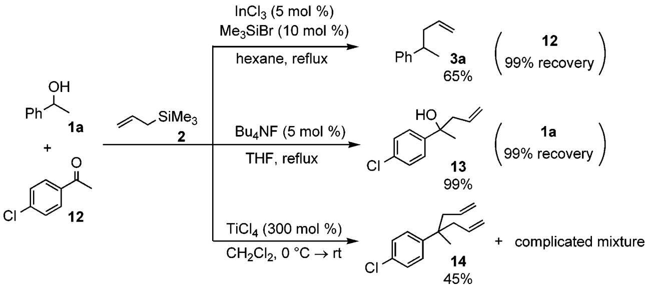
(23) For a review on the substitution of OH in hemiacetal, see: (a) Harmange, J.-C.; Figadère, B. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **1993**, *4*, 1711−1754. For a recent report of the stereoselective reaction, see: (b) Schmitt, A.; Reissig, H.-U. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, 1169−1174. (c) Schmitt, A.; Reissig, H.-U. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, 3893−3901. (d) Schmitt, A.; Reissig, H.-U. *Chem. Ber.* **1995**, *128*, 871−876. (e) Smith, D. M.; Woerpel, K. A. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, *6*, 2063−2066.

(24) Fürstner, A.; Radkowski, K.; Wirtz, C.; Goddard, R.; Lehmann, C. W.; Mynott, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 7061−7069.

SCHEME 1. Higher Reactivity toward Alcohol over Acetate



SCHEME 2. Competitive Reaction between Alcohol and Ketone



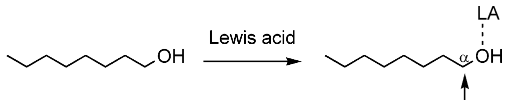
moiety. As aforementioned, 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) was successfully allylated with the InCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr system. We interestingly found the fact that no reaction took place in the allylation of 1-phenylethyl acetate (**11**) by our catalytic system, as shown in Scheme 1.[25] Under the conditions optimized for the direct allylation of 1-phenylethanol (77% yield), no substitution of the acetoxy moiety was observed. Consequently, the InCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr system has reversed chemoselectivity to general procedures.

Since the predominant reactivity toward hydroxy moieties over acetoxy ones was demonstrated, we next focused on the difference in the reactivity between the hydroxyl and ketone moieties (Scheme 2). When we treated allyltrimethylsilane (**2**) with an equimolar amount of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) and *p*-chloroacetophenone (**12**) in the presence of a catalytic amount of InCl$_3$ and Me$_3$SiBr, the alcohol **1a** was exclusively allylated in contrast to complete recovery of the starting ketone **12**. This result is very interesting because we have already reported how the InCl$_3$/Me$_3$SiCl system effected the allylation of ketones.[17a,b] The combined catalyst apparently activated a hydroxyl moiety far more strongly than a ketone. In contrast, Bu$_4$NF, which is a representative and effective catalyst for the allylation of carbonyl compounds,[26] promoted the exclusive allylation of ketone **12**. The catalyst systems of InCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr and Bu$_4$NF were found to be complementary to each other. On the other hand, a representative Lewis acid, TiCl$_4$, gave a complicated mixture, including 45% of the double allylated product **14** of ketone, in which alcohol **1a** was completely consumed.[27,28]

From these results, it is apparent that the combined system of InCl$_3$ and Me$_3$SiBr makes possible the selective activation of alcohols over ketones.

4. NMR Study. The enhanced Lewis acidity was confirmed by monitoring the NMR chemical shifts, δ(^{13}C), of the α-carbon of 1-octanol in the mixture with InX$_3$ and Me$_3$SiX, as noted in Table 5.[29] Reasonable downfield shifts of the α-carbon which represent the strength of their acidity were observed in the presence of Lewis acids, such as Me$_3$SiCl, Me$_3$SiBr, InCl$_3$, or InBr$_3$ (entries 2−5), which indicates that these species act as moderate Lewis acids. In comparison to these values, combined Lewis acid systems caused larger downfield shifts (entries 6−9), and particularly, the combination of InBr$_3$ and Me$_3$SiBr showed the largest value examined (+7.5 ppm, entry 9). This result indicates that this combination would act as the most effective catalyst. However, this InBr$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr system gave a slightly lower yield relative to that of the InCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr system perhaps because of the instability of stronger Lewis acid (Figure 2). Therefore, the suitable combination, InCl$_3$/Me$_3$SiBr, should be chosen to accomplish the reaction.

TABLE 5. Effect of Lewis Acids on the Chemical Shifts, δ(^{13}C), of the α-Carbon in 1-Octanol[a]



entry	Lewis acid	δ(^{13}C)/ppm	$\Delta\delta$(^{13}C)/ppm
1	none	62.7	0
2	Me$_3$SiCl	62.8	+0.1
3	Me$_3$SiBr	64.0	+1.3
4	InCl$_3$	65.2	+2.5
5	InBr$_3$	65.2	+2.5
6	InCl$_3$ + Me$_3$SiCl	66.0	+3.3
7	InCl$_3$ + Me$_3$SiBr	66.3	+3.6
8	InBr$_3$ + Me$_3$SiCl	67.4	+4.7
9	InBr$_3$ + Me$_3$SiBr	70.2	+7.5

[a] 1-Octanol and Lewis acids (1.0 M each) in MeCN at room temperature.

Next, ^{29}Si NMR studies were performed. Upon mixing with equimolar amounts of Me$_3$SiBr and InCl$_3$ (1.0 M each), a facile halogen exchange gave a broadened signal of Me$_3$SiCl at around 33.0 ppm ((iii) in Figure 3).[30] In the combination of Me$_3$SiCl and InBr$_3$, only the signal corresponding to Me$_3$SiCl was broadened ((iv) in Figure 3). Therefore, this broadening plausibly indicates the range of interaction between Me$_3$SiCl and In(III) halide **15**, as shown in Scheme 3.[17a,e,31] A mixing of Me$_3$SiBr and InBr$_3$, which caused the most downfield shift of the α-carbon of the alcohol, noted in Table 5, gave the most broadened signal of Me$_3$SiBr ((v) in Figure 3). This interaction is weakened at low temperature because the signal became sharp.[20] In the case of AlCl$_3$ and BF$_3$·OEt$_2$, halogen exchange with Me$_3$SiBr also took place at room temperature. The generated Me$_3$SiCl and Me$_3$SiF, however, do not seem to

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[25] 1-Phenylethyl acetate (**11**) and 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) were obtained in 75 and 12% yields, respectively.

[26] Hosomi, A.; Shirahata, A.; Sakurai, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1978**, *33*, 3043−3046.

[27] When an equimolar amount of titanium(IV) chloride was used, only chlorination of alcohol was promoted.

[28] Hosomi, A.; Sakurai, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1976**, *16*, 1295−1298.

[29] We did not use hexane as a solvent owing to the poor solubility of InCl$_3$. When AlCl$_3$ or BF$_3$·OEt$_2$ instead of InX$_3$ was used in MeCN, these NMR charts were complicated by the concomitant formation.

[30] In the presence of 1-octanol, the similar broadening of the combination of Me$_3$SiCl and InCl$_3$ on ^{29}Si NMR in MeCN was observed.

[31] For reports of silylium ion, see: (a) Kim, K.-C.; Reed, C. A.; Elliott, D. W.; Mueller, L. J.; Tham, F.; Lin, L.; Lambert, J. B. *Science* **2002**, *297*, 825−827. (b) Lambert, J. B.; Zhao, Y. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1997**, *36*, 400−401. (c) Lambert, J. B.; Lin, L. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 8537−8539. (d) Lambert, J. B.; Zhao, Y.; Zhang, S. M. *J. Phys. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *14*, 370−379. Gabbaï et al. reported a working model in which the mercury atom on Me$_3$SiCl is activated by coordination of bidentate mercury Lewis acid and the interaction between Ga(III) and Cl on Sn(IV) was confirmed by X-ray single-crystal analysis: (e) King, J. B.; Gabbaï, F. P. *Organometallics* **2003**, *22*, 1275−1280. (f) Tschinkl, M.; Hoefelmeyer, J. D.; Cocker, T. M.; Bachman, R. E.; Gabbaï, F. P. *Organometallics* **2000**, *19*, 1826−1828.

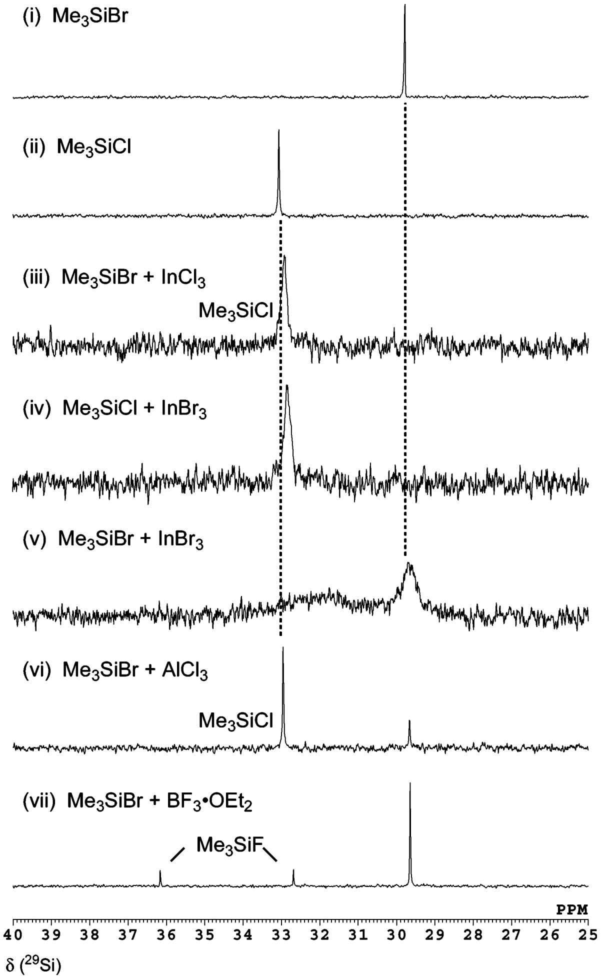
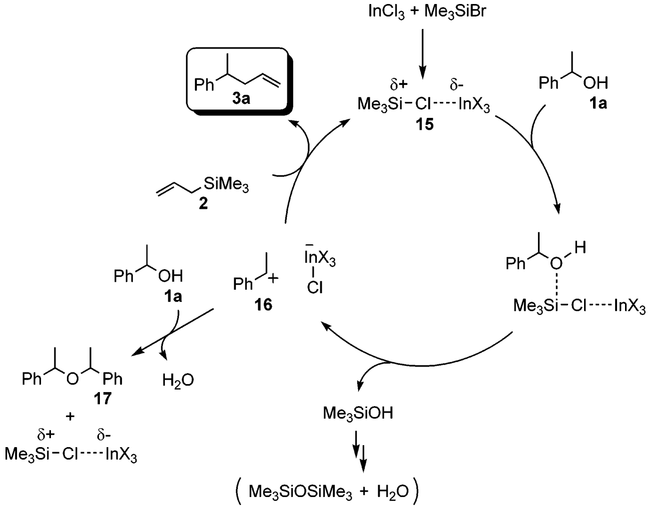


FIGURE 3. ^{29}Si NMR spectra of the mixture of Me$_3$SiX and Lewis acids in MeCN at room temperature (79 MHz, TMS external standard).

SCHEME 3. Plausible Mechanism



interact with aluminum or boron halides because of the observation of the sharp signal ((vi) and (vii) in Figure 3). This is perhaps the reason why the InCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr system is more effective than AlCl$_3$−Me$_3$SiBr, as the catalytic activity depends on the interaction.

5. Possible Mechanism. On the basis of the discussions involving cation species and the strong Lewis acidity of the combined system, we propose a plausible mechanism using the reaction of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**) with allyltrimethylsilane (**2**) catalyzed by InCl$_3$/Me$_3$SiBr (Scheme 3). At first, the combined Lewis acid **15**[32] activates the hydroxyl moiety by strong coordination to the silicone center to promote the formation of carbocation **16**. Addition of allylsilane **2** to the cation **16** gives the allylated product **3a** with regeneration of the combined catalyst,[33] consequently completing the catalytic cycle of the direct allylation of alcohols. When alcohol **1a** reacted with the cation **16**, dimeric ether **17** would be produced.[34] The ether may be incorporated in this allylation when the combined Lewis acid activated the ether. The optimized reaction conditions, however, required an excess amount (2-fold) of silyl compounds. In addition, in some cases, slow and dropwise addition of the alcohol was essential for high yields (entry 2 in Table 2, entries 1 and 2 in Table 3). These results plausibly suggest that the direct attack of **2** to the cation **16** is favorable for the effective substitution of alcoholic hydroxyl moieties. An additional important factor for the completion of the catalytic cycle is the low oxophilicity and high halophilicity of indium halides because high oxophilicity disturbs the regeneration of the combined catalyst. Perhaps AlCl$_3$ is the case of high oxophilicity and has no catalytic ability.

To confirm the low oxophilicity of InCl$_3$ for regenerating the combined catalyst, the interaction between Me$_3$SiOMe and some Lewis acids was monitored with ^{29}Si NMR.[20] No interaction was observed in the mixture of indium halide and Me$_3$SiOMe, while the reaction with AlCl$_3$ or BF$_3$•OEt$_2$ rapidly took place to give Me$_3$SiCl or Me$_3$SiF, respectively. The strong oxophilicity of Al and B species disturbs the regeneration of the catalytic species in contrast to the indium−silicone system. These results, including Figure 3, also represent the strong halophilicity enough to enhance the Lewis acidity of the silicon center.

Conclusion

A direct allylation of alcohols was established by using InCl$_3$ and Me$_3$SiBr. This combination catalyst was essential for the reaction in a non-halogenated solvent and applied to the reaction of a wide range of alcohols and silyl nucleophiles, such as methallyl-, cinnamyl-, prenyl-, alkynyl-, propargyl-, allenyl, and allenylmethylsilane. We also demonstrated the predominant allylation to a hydroxyl moiety over ketone and acetoxy ones. It was proved that In(III) exhibited specific characteristics of high halophilicity and low oxophilicity.

Experimental Section

Typical Procedure for Allylation of 1a (Table 1, Entry 3). To a mixture of InCl$_3$ (0.05 mmol) and 1-phenylethanol (**1a**, 1.0 mmol) in hexane (1 mL) were added allyltrimethylsilane (**2**, 2.0 mmol) and Me$_3$SiBr (0.1 mmol) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred under the reaction conditions noted in the text. The resulting mixture was poured into Et$_2$O (50 mL) and aqueous NaHCO$_3$ (30 mL). The solution was extracted with Et$_2$O, and the organic layer was dried over MgSO$_4$. The evaporation of the ether

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(32) The halogen exchange between Me$_3$SiBr and InCl$_3$ was also observed in hexane as well as MeCN.

(33) An S$_N$1 mechanism is also supported by the result that racemization took place in the direct allylation of enantiomerically pure 1-phenylethanol; see Supporting Information.

(34) In fact, a small amount of ether **17** can be observed when the reaction was quenched in the early stage.

solution gave the crude product, which was analyzed by NMR. The details of further purification performed for the new compounds are described in Supporting Information.

Allylation by Slow Addition of 1a (Table 2, Entry 2). To a mixture of $InCl_3$ (0.05 mmol), Me_3SiBr (0.1 mmol), and allyltrimethylsilane (**2**, 3.0 mmol) in hexane (1 mL) was slowly added a solution of 1-phenylethanol (**1a**, 1.0 mmol) in hexane (1 mL) for 10 min under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred under the reaction conditions noted in the text. The workup employed is the same as that described in the typical reaction procedure.

Allylation of 9 (eq 1). To a mixture of $InCl_3$ (0.05 mmol) and alcohol **9** (1.0 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (2 mL) were added allyltrimethylsilane (**2**, 4.0 mmol) and Me_3SiCl (0.5 mmol) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 3 h. The workup employed is the same as that described in the typical reaction procedure.

Competitive Reaction between 1a and 12 Using the $InCl_3$/Me_3SiBr System (Scheme 2). To a solution of 1-phenylethanol **1a** (1 mmol) and *p*-chloroacetophenone **12** (1 mmol) in hexane (2 mL) were added allyltrimethylsilane (**2**, 2.0 mmol) and Me_3SiBr (0.1 mmol) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 6 h. The resulting mixture was poured into Et_2O (50 mL) and aqueous $NaHCO_3$ (30 mL). The solution was extracted with Et_2O, and the organic layer was dried over $MgSO_4$. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by TLC (hexane/AcOEt, 95/5, $R_f = 0.72$ and 0.22) affording **3a** (65%) and **12** (99%).

Competitive Reaction between 1a and 12 Using Bu_4NF (Scheme 2).[26] To a mixture of Bu_4NF (0.05 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (25 mg), 1-phenylethanol **1a** (1 mmol), and *p*-chloroacetophenone **12** (1 mmol) in THF (4 mL) was added allyltrimethylsilane (**2**, 3.0 mmol) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 3 h. After treatment of the reaction mixture with MeOH (5 mL) and 1 N HCl (5 mL) at room temperature for 30 min, the solution was extracted with Et_2O, and the organic layer was dried over $MgSO_4$. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by TLC (hexane/AcOEt, 80/20, $R_f = 0.28$ and 0.44) affording **1a** (99%) and **13** (99%).

Competitive Reaction between 1a and 12 Using $TiCl_4$ (Scheme 2).[28] To a solution of a 1-phenylethanol **1a** (1 mmol) and *p*-chloroacetophenone **12** (1 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) was added $TiCl_4$ (3 mmol) dropwise with a syringe at 0 °C. After stirring for 5 min, allyltrimethylsilane (**2**, 3 mmol) was added to the mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C → room temperature for 30 min. The resulting mixture was poured into Et_2O (50 mL) and water (30 mL). The solution was extracted with Et_2O, and the organic layer was dried over $MgSO_4$. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by TLC (hexane/AcOEt, 95/5, $R_f =$ 0.67) affording **14** (45%).

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Supporting Information Available: Reaction procedure, NMR study, and spectroscopic details of new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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