

Vicinal Difunctionalization of Alkenes under Iodine(III) Catalysis involving Lewis Base Adducts

Kristina Aertker,^a Raquel J. Rama,^a Julita Opalach,^a and Kilian Muñiz^{a,b,*}

^a Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, 16 Avgda. Paisos Catalans, 43007 Tarragona, Spain E-mail: kmuniz@iciq.es

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^b ICREA, Pg. Lluís Companys 23, 08010 Barcelona, Spain

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Abstract: The influence of a 2-pyridinyl substituent on the catalytic performance of aryl iodides as catalyst in iodine(III) chemistry was explored. An efficient Lewis base adduct between the pyridine nitrogen and the electrophilic iodine(III) center was identified and confirmed by X-ray analysis. This arrangement was shown to generate a kinetically competent superior catalyst structure for the catalytic dioxygenation of alkenes. It introduces the concept of Lewis base adduct formation as a kinetic factor in iodine(I/III) catalysis.

Keywords: alkenes; catalysis; iodine; Lewis bases; oxidation

Hypervalent iodine(III) reagents^[1] have been identified as versatile reagents for the difunctionalization of alkenes.^[2] The general versatility of these oxidizing reagents in organic chemistry is further expressed by recent developments, which involve their application in metal-free, environmentally benign oxidation catalysis.^[3] In these cases, the iodine(III) state represents the active catalyst, which is continuously regenerated from a conventional iodine(I) precatalyst.

In the prominent field of dioxygenation reactions of alkenes,^[4,5] the application of the standard hypervalent iodine reagent $PhI(OAc)_2 \mathbf{1}$ for diacetoxylation is hampered by its notoriously low reactivity towards alkenes.

The desired reaction can be accelerated through addition of catalytic amounts of a strong Brønsted acid, for example TfOH. In seminal work, Gade and Kang demonstrated that such an acid catalysis significantly accelerates the alkene oxidation, presumably through protonolysis of PhI(OAc)₂ forming a cationic iodine center (Scheme 1).^[6,7] The latter displays enhanced electrophilicity and reactivity due to the free coordi-

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nation site at iodine. The same observation was recently made in the development of an enantioselective catalytic diacetoxylation of styrenes, in which cocatalysis by TfOH was a crucial factor.^[8] Alternatively, the activation of iodine(III) derivatives with the aid of fluorinated alcohols was discussed.^[9]

It appears reasonable to investigate further structural diversification for the discrete formation of electrophilic iodine(III) catalyst states with free coordination sites. One approach in this direction should consist of the use of weakly coordinating Lewis bases.

The pyridine unit displays a long history of successful stabilization of electrophilic iodine centers. Barluenga's reagent $[I(py)_2]BF_4$ is certainly the most prominent example to this end,^[10,11] while pyridine coordination to electrophilic iodine(III) centers has been less investigated.

Examples in this area include the compound $[PhI(py)_2](OTf)_2$ (2),^[12] the corresponding benziodoxolone adduct $3^{[13]}$ and the chiral derivatives 4 and 5, which were introduced by Wirth (Figure 1).^[14,15] Interestingly, the solid state structure of 4 does not display any interaction between the iodine(III) center and the nitrogen atom of the pyridinyl group. In agreement with this, the reported catalysis relied on co-activation by a Brønsted acid.^[15]



Scheme 1. Brønsted acid acceleration in the diacetoxylation of alkenes.

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Figure 1. Pyridine coordination to iodine(III) in compounds 2 and 3, and chiral pyridinyl derivatives 4 and 5.

To probe the supportive context of pyridine coordination in an iodine(III) catalyst, the aryliodine **6** was synthesized from 2-phenylpyridine^[16,17] and submitted to oxidation. Exploring several established oxidation agents, we observed that only peracetic acid provided an oxidation product (Scheme 2). With this particular oxidant, clean formation of the desired iodine(III) derivative **7** was observed.

Suitable crystals of the new chelate **7** were grown from a solution in cyclohexane-dichloromethane. Xray analysis confirmed the expected structure including the coordination of the pyridine group to the central iodine atom indicating the Lewis base-assisted activation of the former iodine-acetoxy bond (Figure 2).^[18] The corresponding I–N bond length was determined to be 2.443 Å, which is in good agreement with bond distances of 2.44 to 2.46 Å in related nitrogen coordination^[17] and of 2.24 to 3.13 Å in similar derivatives of chelated iodine(III) complexes based



Scheme 2. Oxidation of iodine(I) compound 6 to iodine(III) compound 7.

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Figure 2. Solid-state structures of compounds **7** and **8** (ellipsoids at 50% probability).^[18] Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: **7**: I1A–O1A 1.921(5), I1A–N1A 2.443(6), I1A–O1 2.850(4), O1A–I1A–N1A167.2(2); **8**: I1B–O1B 1.946(5), I1B–N1B 2.406(6), O1B–I1B–N1B 167.2(2).

on oxygen coordination.^[19] In general, intramolecular coordination of oxygen donor atoms to hypervalent iodine centers has been a common strategy, while related nitrogen donor coordination appears significantly less encountered.

The crystal structure determination also provides the corresponding iodoso benzene **8** (Figure 2), which undergoes intermolecular hydrogen bonding with **7**.^[18] Iodoso derivative **8** originates from compound **7** upon loss of acetic acid (Scheme 3), presumably throughout the crystallization process. In an analogous manner, **7** can be restored from **8** by addition of acetic acid characterizing it as the acetic acid adduct of **7**.



Scheme 3. Relation between iodine(III) compounds 7 and 8.

Subsequent work addressed the diacetoxylation of alkenes with compound **6** as catalyst. Given the effective oxidation of **6** to **7**, we decided to employ peracetic acid as the terminal oxidant and to follow conditions established previously for the diacetoxylation of alkenes.^[20]

A number of different alkenes were submitted to diacetoxylation (Scheme 4), leading to chemoselective oxidation of the C=C double bonds in all cases. As commonly observed,^[5,6,8,20] styrenes represent the pre-

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^[a] From reaction with (*E*)- β -methylstyrene **9**j.

^[b] From reaction with (E)-O-acetoxycinnamic alcohol 9I.

^[C] Without treatment with acetic anhydride.

Scheme 4. Catalytic diacetoxylation of alkenes. Given yields refer to isolated material after purification.

ferred substrate class in this reaction, and products **10a–10h** could be obtained in 66–92% isolated yields. The same was observed for product 10i, which resulted from clean diacetoxylation without any potentially competing rearrangement or allylic oxidation. From observations of the crude reaction mixture of 10d, it was concluded that these reactions proceed through initial formation of the 1-hydroxy-2-acetoxy derivative, which derives from the Woodward pathway.^[21] They are converted into uniform vicinal diacetoxy products upon treatment with acetic anhydride. In contrast, (E)- and (Z)- β -methylstyrene and (E)-Oacetoxycinnamic ester yield the corresponding products 10j-10l as diastereomeric mixtures due to competing Woodward and Prevost^[22] pathways.

Cyclic aliphatic alkenes can also be employed as demonstrated for formation of the products 10m and

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activated catalyst iodobenzene

The beneficial effect of the 2-pyridinyl group was

demonstrated within a kinetic competition experi-

Figure 3. Initial kinetic profiles for the dioxygenation of 4fluorostyrene 9d with catalyst 6 and iodobenzene 1.

The proposed catalytic cycle (Figure 4) comprises the documented oxidation of catalyst 6 to 7 with the iodine(III) catalyst state. Coordination of alkene 9 to the electrophilic iodine center in 7 may involve an associative process through A or directly arrive at A'with a three-coordinate iodine center. Subsequent iodoacetoxylation initiates the difunctionalization via **B**, from which catalyst 6 is regenerated via reductive oxygenation (as discussed, for styrenes 9a-h, this step should consist of a Woodward pathway).

In summary, we have reported a new catalyst for the iodine(III)-catalyzed dioxygenation of alkenes. The kinetic competence of this catalyst relies on an efficient Lewis base coordination of a pyridine group

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Figure 4. Catalytic cycle for the diacetoxylation of styrenes 9.

to the electrophilic iodine(III) catalyst. This concept should provide space for new catalyst design in the field of hypervalent iodine catalysis.

Experimental Section

Synthesis of Catalyst 6^[17]

2-(2-Bromophenyl)pyridine (162 mg, 0.7 mmol) was dissolved in absolute THF (5.5 mL), cooled to -78 °C and *n*-BuLi (0.38 mL, 2M in hexane, 0.76 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2 h. An iodine solution (3 mL, 1M in THF, 3.01 mmol, 4.3 equiv.) was then added at -78 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature, stirred for 20 h and evaporated to dryness. Column chromatography (SiO₂, 10% ethyl acetate/hexane/EtOAc, 90/10, v/v) provided the title compound **6** as a white solid; yield: 106.8 mg (54%).

General Procedure for Diacetoxylation

A Pyrex tube equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with iodine(I) catalyst **6** (5.62 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) and AcOH (1 mL). AcOOH (36% in AcOH, 90 μ L, 0.44 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Then the respective alkene (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for further 18 h. H₂O (2 mL), brine (1.5 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ were added and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduce pressure. Compounds **10n–q** were di-

rectly purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to provide analytically pure products. For compounds **10am**, the crude product was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (0.5 mL) and acetic anhydride (55 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), pyridine (40 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and DMAP (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.25 equiv.) were added. After stirring at room temperature for 5 h, the reaction was quenched with aqueous HCl (6M, 3 mL) and EtOAc (3 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted twice with EtOAc and the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to provide analytically pure products.

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6 Vicinal Difunctionalization of Alkenes under Iodine(III) Catalysis involving Lewis Base Adducts

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Kristina Aertker, Raquel J. Rama, Julita Opalach, Kilian Muñiz*



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