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Synthesis of Hypervalent Iodine(III) Reagents Containing a Transferable (Diarylmethylene)amino Group and Their Use in the Oxidative Amination of Silyl Ketene Acetals

Kensuke Kiyokawa,* Daichi Okumatsu, and Satoshi Minakata*

Abstract: The preparation of some hypervalent iodine reagents containing a transferable amino group derived from benzophenone imine derivatives are reported. The reagents could be readily prepared, stored as a bench-stable solid, and were successfully used in the transition-metal-free oxidative amination of silyl ketene acetals to afford the corresponding α -amino esters, whose benzophenone imine moieties could be easily hydrolyzed, leading to the formation of primary amines.

Oxidative amination is one of the most attractive transformations to access various types of nitrogen containing compounds, which are promising building blocks that can be used to prepare biologically active and medicinally important compounds. Hypervalent iodine reagents have emerged as a powerful tool in oxidative transformations,^[1,2] and in the past decades, several examples of reagents containing transferable nitrogen functional groups such as imino (I),[3] bissulfonimido (II),^[4,5] azido (III),^[6] phthalimido (IV),^[7,8] and sulfoximido (V)^[9] groups have been developed for use in some unique oxidative amination reactions. However, despite recent advances, there continue to be problems associated with preparing amines utilizing those reagents. Indeed, although iminoiodane I and bisimidoiodane II are extensively used in the oxidative amination of unsaturated hydrocarbons and C-H bond amination,^[3,4] it is frequently difficult to deprotect the amino group in the products, thus hampering the synthesis of primary amines and further elaboration of the amine products. Azidoiodane III has recently been recognized as a useful reagent for preparing organic azides in an oxidative manner.^[6] Neverthless, it is well known that azides are hazardous substances and the fact that a laborious reduction process is needed is a disadvantage in amine synthesis. Synthetic application of IV in oxidative amination has remained limited even though a phthaloyl group can be easily removed to provide a primary amine.[7] Thus, the development of a new method that enables the introduction of a readily modifiable nitrogen-containing functional group into an organic molecule utilizing hypervalent iodine reagents continues to be a challenging task.^[10]

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Figure 1. Representative examples of hypervalent iodine reagents that contain transferable nitrogen functional groups.

Benzophenone imine has been used as an aminating reagent in transition-metal catalyzed amination^[11] and catalytic C-H amination,^[12] and the resulting aminated products can be easily hydrolyzed to give primary amines. In addition, N-stannyl benzophenone imine has been applied to a radical alkylation reaction.^[13] Meanwhile, benzophenone imine-derived oxime derivatives function as an electrophilic aminating reagent, which enables the amination of alkynyl copper reagents,^[14a] Grignard reagents,[14b] and organoboron compounds with a copper catalyst.^[14c] In this context, we hypothesized that hypervalent iodine reagents combined with benzophenone imine would offer a promising tool for oxidative amination to deliver modifiable amine products. Herein, we report on the development of some hypervalent iodine reagents that contain a benzophenone iminederived nitrogen functional group and their use in the oxidative amination of silvl ketene acetals to provide acetalis aceta derivatives.

Our initial efforts focused on the synthesis of the hypervalent iodine reagent 2 having a benziodoxolone skeleton along with the stability of the product (Scheme 1).^[15] Gratifyingly, the synthesis of the desired 2 was achieved by a simple ligand exchange process. Indeed, acetoxyiodane 1 reacted smoothly with benzophenone imine in dichloromethane at room temperature to furnish the desired 2 in high yield, even in the case of a gram-scale synthesis (3.9 g, 91%). This simple process was successfully applied to the synthesis of derivatives containing electron-donating methoxy (3) and electronwithdrawing trifluoromethyl (4) groups. The synthesized reagents were reasonably stable under ambient conditions in the solid state as well as in solution. Single crystals of a representative sample of 2 suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were grown by the slow diffusion of an acetonitrile solution.^[16,17] Structural data for 2 revealed that the benzophenone imine moiety was N-bound to the hypervalent iodine(III) center, which shows a typical distorted T-shaped geometry (Figure 2). The length of the I-N bond of 2.083(3) Å is somewhat longer than that observed for the sulfoximidoylcontaining hypervalent iodine reagent reported by Bolm and coworkers.^[9a] In the solid state, 2 exists as a monomer with no intermolecular secondary bonding interactions around the iodine center, which is consistent with the fact that it is soluble in organic solvents, such as chloroform and dichloromethane.

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Scheme 1. Syntheses of hypervalent iodine reagents containing a benzophenone imine-derived nitrogen functional group.



Figure 2. Crystal structure of 2 (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity). Thermal ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: I1-N1 2.083(3), I1-O1 2.312(3), I1-C1 2.114(4), N1-C8 1.291(5), O1-I1-N1 165.16(10); N1-I1-C1 88.90(13), O1-I1-C1 76.56(12), I1-O1-C7 114.7(2), I1-N1-C8 115.7(2).

We next turned our attention to exploring the reactivity of the synthesized hypervalent iodine reagents. The direct oxidative αamination of carbonyl compounds in the carboxylic acid oxidation state is one of the most straightforward methods for preparing unnatural α -amino acid derivatives,^[18] which are promising structural motifs for the preparation of biologically active molecules. In addition to direct methods, the oxidative amination of silyl ketene acetals is also a practical and reliable strategy, and several transition metal-catalyzed approaches have been reported to date, in which iminoiodanes,[19a,b] hydroxyamines,^[19c] and chloramines^[19d] were used as a nitrogen source. However, a remaining issue is the need for transitionmetal catalysts to be used and difficulties associated with the further elaboration of an amino group in the products. In this context, we were pleased to find that the hypervalent iodine reagent 2 was capable of aminating silyl ketene acetals without the addition of any catalyst or additive.

When the silvl ketene acetal 5a (E/Z = 71:29) derived from methyl phenylacetate was employed in the reaction with 2 in 1,2dichloroethane at 60 °C, oxidative amination occurred to give the desired 6a in 42% yield (Table 1, Entry 1). The results of a solvent screening revealed that the yield of 6a could be increased to 70% when MeCN was used (Entry 2). Reactions in other polar solvents, such as DMF, THF, and MeNO₂, resulted in lower yields of 6a than that in MeCN (Entries 3-5) while no desired product was formed when HFIP and toluene were used as the solvent (Entries 6 and 7). Increasing the amounts of reagents used were effective, and the use of 1.5 equivalents of 5a gave the best result (Entries 8 and 9). The E/Z configuration of a silyl ketene acetal would little affect the efficiency of the reaction because (Z)-5a (E/Z = 9:91) provided the same yield (Entry 2 vs. 10). Silyl ketene acetals bearing a bulky silyl group, such as tert-butyldimethylsilyl (7) and triisopropylsilyl (8) groups,

were also applicable to this amination but their reactivity was lower than that of **5a** (Entries 11 and 12). No reaction was observed with benzophenone imine-derived oxime derivatives that can function as electrophilic aminating reagents (Entries 13 and 14).^[14] Conducting the reaction at room temperature resulted in a lower yield of **5a** (Entry 15). The reaction proceeded with comparable efficiency, even in the dark, demonstrating that the reaction is a thermal process (Entry 16).

 Table 1. Effect of solvents and reaction parameters on the oxidative amination of the silyl ketene acetal 5a and control experiments.^[a]

	2 + Ph OMe Sa (<i>E</i> / <i>Z</i> = 71:29) (1 equiv)	Ph N OMe Ph Ph Ph Ph 6a
Entry	Solvent	Yield [%] ^[b]
1	1,2-Dichloroethane	42
2	MeCN	70
3	DMF	45
4	THF	39
5	MeNO ₂	12
6	HFIP	0
7	Toluene	0
Entry	Deviation from the conditions of Entry	y 2 Yield [%] ^[b]
8	2 (1.5 equiv)	74
9	5a (1.5 equiv)	82
10	(Z)- 5a (<i>E</i> /Z = 9:91) instead of 5a (<i>E</i> /Z	z = 71:29) 70
11	7 instead of 5a , 12 h	58
12	8 instead of 5a , 12 h	52
13	9 instead of 2 , 12 h	0
14	10 instead of 2, 12 h	0
15	RT	48
16	In the dark	66

[a] Reactions were performed on a 0.2 mmol scale. [b] Determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude product using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.



With the optimized reaction conditions in hand (Table 1, Entry 9), the substrate scope of the amination was investigated (Table 2). A series of silyl ketene acetals containing electron-rich and -deficient aryl groups at the 2-position were subjected to amination with **2**, and all of the reactions proceeded successfully to afford the corresponding α -amino esters in good to high yields (Entries 1–6). The presence of a methyl substituent on the *o*- or *m*-positions did not affect the reactivity (Entries 7 and 8). An electron-rich *N*-methyl indolyl group was well tolerated under the oxidative conditions to provide the desired **6i** (Entry 9). In addition, silyl ketene acetals containing aliphatic substituents at the 2-position were also suitable for this amination. For example, substrates containing *n*-butyl (**5j**) and sterically hindered

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isopropyl (**5k**) groups were smoothly converted into the corresponding α -amino esters (Entries 10 and 11). Furthermore, the sterically demanding dimethyl-substituted **5I** was also transformed into **6I** containing an α -tertiary amine moiety in moderate yield (Entry 12). However, unfortunately, the present method could not be applied to the amination of a silyl enol ether derived from acetophenone (not shown).

Table 2. Substrate scope.[a]



[a] Reactions were performed on a 0.4 mmol scale. Yields are isolated yields. The isolated products contained a small amount of dimers of **5**. See the Supporting Information for details. [b] Reaction was conducted at RT. [c] *E/Z* ratios were not determined.

Oxidative amination was also examined using derivatives **3** and **4** that contain electron-rich and -deficient imine moieties, respectively (Scheme 2). Both reagents could be used to deliver the corresponding products in yields comparable to those for the

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reaction using **2**, indicating that the amination was not significantly influenced by the electronic property of the imine moiety of the hypervalent iodine reagent.



Scheme 2. Oxidative amination using hypervalent iodine reagents 3 and 4.

It is well known that a benzophenone imine moiety is be easily hydrolyzed, and this allowed us to carry out a one-pot synthesis of the unprotected α -amino ester **13** (Scheme 3). A sequential one-pot protocol consisting of the oxidative amination of **5a** with **2**, removal of the volatiles under reduced pressure, and acid hydrolysis at room temperature followed by a simple basic workup, afforded desired **13** in good yield. This quite simple method offers a useful and practical process for the synthesis of α -amino acid derivatives.



Scheme 3. Synthesis of a primary amine via a one-pot procedure.

Mechanistic aspects of the oxidative amination were also investigated. Both ¹H NMR and GC-MS analysis of byproducts in the amination of 5a (Table 1, Entry 9) revealed that a small amount of 14 and benzophenone azine (15) were generated, which were likely formed through the homocoupling of the corresponding α -carbonyl radicals and iminyl radicals, respectively (Scheme 4a).^[20,21] To examine this issue further, we carried out a radical trapping experiment using 2,2,6,6tetramethyl-piperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO). When TEMPO was added to the amination reaction of 5a, the formation of 6a was suppressed (19%), and 16 was produced as the main product through the trapping of an α -carbonyl radical derived from **5a** by TEMPO (Scheme 4b).^[22] These results clearly indicate that an αcarbonyl radical 17 as well as an iminyl radical 18 (in Scheme 5) are generated in situ and both participate in the amination step. A radical mechanism was further confirmed by a radical clock experiment using the silvl ketene acetal 5m containing a cyclopropyl substituent (Scheme 4c).^[23] When 5m was subjected to the amination reaction conditions, the cyclopropane-contining 6m was formed in low yield, and some ring-opening products (not fully characterized) were observed, one of which was determined to be 6m'.[24]

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Scheme 4. Mechanistic investigations into the oxidaitve amination reaction. a) Byproducts in the standard amination reaction. b) Radical trapping experiment with TEMPO. c) Reaction of cyclopropane-containing 5m. Yields are determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude product.

Based on these experimental results, a proposed reaction pathway is depicted in Scheme 5. The reaction is initiated through a single electron transfer (SET) from the silyl ketene acetal 5 to the hypervalent iodine reagent 2.^[25,26] The resulting radical cation and anion species are then quickly decomposed to form the α -carbonyl radical 17 and the iminyl radical 18, respectively, which are then rapidly coupled to produce the α amino ester 6. In addition, given the fact that the formation of a certain amount of 6a, even in the presence of TEMPO (Scheme 4b) and that the cyclopropane-containing product 6m is formed (Scheme 4c), an alternative pathway including a radical addition of 18 to 5 followed by single-electron oxidation of the resulting 19 by 2, is also a possible pathway.^[25,27,28]



Scheme 5. Proposed reaction pathway.

In conclusion, benziodoxolone-based hypervalent iodine reagents containing a transferable (diarylmethylene)amino group were prepared and found to be reasonably stable under ambient conditions. A representative compound was structurally characterized by X-ray analysis. In addition, using these reagents, the transition-metal-free oxidative amination of silyl

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ketene acetals was developed to afford α -amino acid derivatives. These preliminary studies demonstrate that these new types of hypervalent iodine reagents can function as useful aminating reagents for the synthesis of primary amines. Further investigations focused on expanding the utility of iodine reagents such as these for organic synthesis are currently in progress.

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Keywords: amination • amino acids • iodine • radical • synthetic methods

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The preparation of some hypervalent iodine reagents containing a transferable amino group derived from benzophenone imine derivatives are reported. The reagents could be readily prepared, stored as a bench-stable solid, and were successfully used in the transition-metal-free oxidative amination of silyl ketene acetals to afford the corresponding α -amino esters, whose benzophenone imine moieties could be easily hydrolyzed, leading to the formation of primary amines.

Kensuke Kiyokawa,* Daichi Okumatsu, and Satoshi Minakata*

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Synthesis of Hypervalent Iodine(III) Reagents Containing a Transferable (DiaryImethylene)amino Group and Their Use in the Oxidative Amination of Silyl Ketene Acetals