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Yb(OTf)₃-Catalyzed Intermolecular Imino Diels–Alder Reaction of 2-Azetidinone- Tethered Aryl Imines as Azadienes

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Abstract: Yb(OTf)₃ is an efficient catalyst for the intermolecular imino Diels–Alder reaction of aldimines derived from 2-azetidinone-tethered aryl imines and electron-rich dienophiles to afford the quinoline- β -lactams.

Keywords: Ytterbium triflate, β -lactam, imino Diels–Alder

INTRODUCTION

The 2-azetidinone nucleus has been recognized as the central motif of the so-called β -lactam antibiotics, the most widely employed family of antimicrobial agents to date.^[1] Furthermore, the recent discoveries of some azetidinones that display a broad range of enzyme-inhibitory activity justify a renewed interest in these compounds. Beside their significance as bioactive agents, they are important as synthetic intermediates.

Imino Diels–Alder reactions involving aza-dienes are widely used in the construction of nitrogen-containing compound.^[2] The Lewis acid-catalyzed aza-Diels–Alder reaction of N-arylimines with dienophiles has shown to be a very powerful tool for the synthesis of tetrahydroquinoline derivatives. The inter- and intramolecular imino Diels–Alder reaction of imines with

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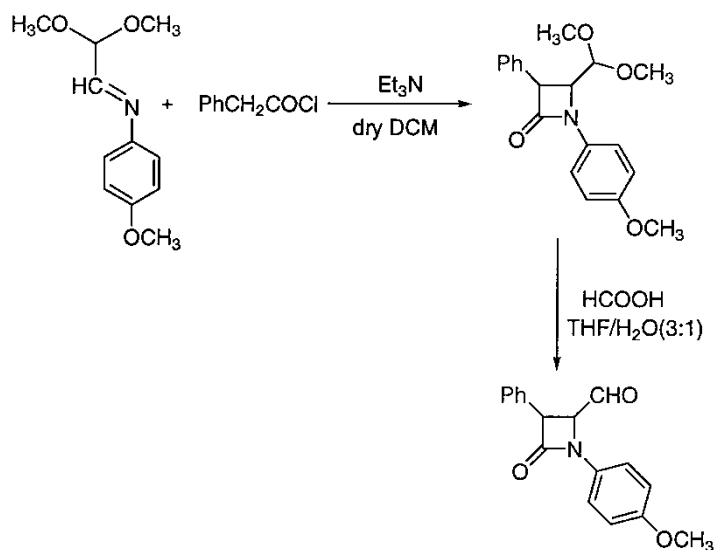
electron-rich dienophiles has been catalyzed by Lewis acids such as $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$,^[3,4] transition-metal carbonyls,^[5] InCl_3 ,^[6] and so forth.

Herein we describe the catalytic activity of $\text{Yb}(\text{OTf})_3$ in the synthesis of quinoline- β -lactams from β -lactam imines and various electron-rich dienophiles via intermolecular imino Diels–Alder reaction in acetonitrile at room temperature in a short time with excellent yields. Synthesis of β -lactam imine from glyoxal dimethylacetal imine leads to 4-dimethylacetal β -lactams, which, on acid hydrolysis, give 4-formyl- β -lactams (Scheme 1).

In the presence of 20 mol% $\text{Yb}(\text{OTf})_3$, β -lactams imines derived from anisidine and various dienophiles in acetonitrile at room temperature give quinoline- β -lactam in 87–98% yield as a mixture of diastereoisomers **3** and **4**. In all cases, the products were obtained as a mixture of diastereoisomers, which can be separated by column chromatography on silica gel. Several other β -lactam imines underwent smooth cycloaddition to give the corresponding quinoline- β -lactams in good yields (Table 1). The (+)**3a–c** and (+)**4a–c** stereochemistry of the products was assigned on the basis of coupling constants of the protons in the ^1H NMR spectra (Scheme 2).

CONCLUSION

We found that the intermolecular imino Diels reaction can be carried out very conveniently starting from the various electron-rich dienophiles and β -lactams imines. This would be a highly desirable method for the preparation

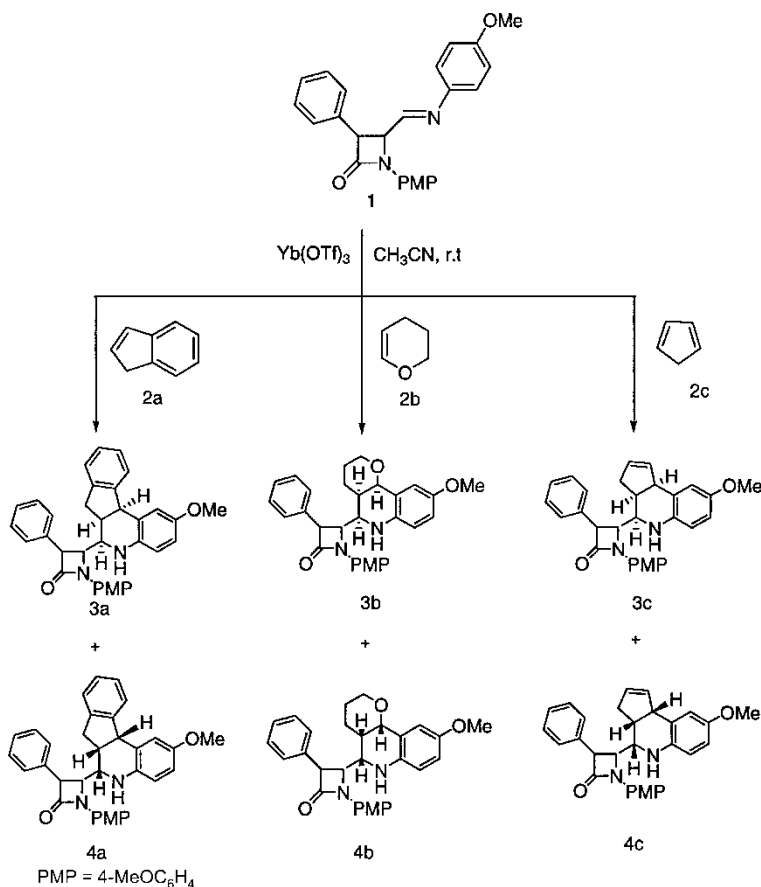


Scheme 1.

Table 1. Synthesis of tricyclic quinoline β -lactams^a

| 3a | 4a | Overall yield, % (3a + 4a) ^b | 3b | 4b | Overall yield, % (3b + 4b) ^b | 3c | 4c | Overall yield, % (3c + 4c) ^b | Time, min |
|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|--------------|
| 36% | 51% | 87 | 46% | 49% | 95 | 47% | 51% | 97 | 20 |

^aAll the products were characterized by IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR.^bYield refers to the mixture of diastereoisomers of products **3a** pure forms by column chromatography.



Scheme 2.

of heteropolycyclic systems. We conclude that $\text{Yb}(\text{OTf})_3$ is an efficient catalyst for cyclization of β -lactams imines with various electron-rich diene derivatives.

EXPERIMENTAL

General Procedure for the Preparation of Imine

A solution of p-anisidine (1.50 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of 4-oxoazetidine-2-carbaldehyde **1** (1.0 mmol) and anhydrous sodium sulfate (1.50 mmol) in dichloromethane (100 mL) at room temperature. After stirring for 12 h at room temperature, the mixture was filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced

pressure. The residue was recrystallized with chloroform to yield the analytically pure compound (mp 124°C).

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Derivatives 3 and 4

A solution of the corresponding imine (1 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of Yb(OTf)₃ (0.2 mmol) in acetonitrile (13 mL) at room temperature for 5 min, and then electron-rich dienophile (1.20 mmol) was introduced. The reaction was decomposed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL), and the mixture was extracted with chloroform (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated on silica gel under reduced pressure. Chromatography of the residue eluting with ethyl acetate/hexanes mixture (3:7) gives **3** and **4**.

Data

Cycloadduct (3c): white solid; mp 168°C, ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.80 and 7.20 (m, each 2H), 6.43 (m, 3H), 5.70 (m, 1H), 5.56 (m, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (m, 4H), 3.63 (m, 7H), 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.11 ppm (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 165.6, 157.7, 153.2, 138.4, 133.9, 130.1, 129.4, 127.1, 122.4, 117.3, 114.4, 113.9, 112.5, 83.2, 59.8, 59.3, 56.0, 55.7, 55.5, 46.1, 40.6, 31.4 ppm; IR (CHCl₃): 3345, 1743 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z*: 452(M)⁺. Elemental analysis calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈N₂O₃: C, 76.97; H, 6.24; N, 6.19; found: C, 77.26; H, 6.41; N, 5.88.

Cycloadduct (4c): white solid; mp 172°C, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.94 and 7.51 (m, each 2H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (ddd, *J* = 8.6, 2.9, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (m, 1H), 5.75 (m, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.83 (m, 4H), 3.67 and 3.71 (s, each 3H), 3.06 (qd, *J* = 10.8, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.38 ppm (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.0, 157.1, 153.3, 138.1, 134.3, 130.9, 130.1, 127.1, 120.2, 117.3, 114.6, 113.9, 112.3, 82.8, 60.5, 59.8, 59.7, 56.1, 55.7, 55.6, 46.2, 39.1, 31.6 ppm; IR (KBr): 3342, 1744 cm⁻¹; MS: *m/z* (%): 452(M⁺). Elemental analysis calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈N₂O₃: C, 76.97; H, 6.24; N, 6.19; found: C, 77.16; H, 6.38; N, 5.96.

Cycloadduct (3b): pale yellow solid; mp 180°C, ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 6.97 (m, 3H), 6.74 (m, 3H), 6.56 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 2.9, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.00 and 5.37 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, each 1H), 4.63 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 1.46 (m, 4H), 3.67 and 3.77 (s, each 3H), 3.51 (m, 2H), 2.40 ppm (m, 1H);

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 164.2, 157.5, 157.0, 153.2, 137.9, 130.4, 129.6, 122.6, 121.5, 120.1, 116.4, 115.8, 114.9, 114.3, 111.6, 79.5, 71.5, 60.9, 57.8, 56.6, 55.6, 55.4, 33.0, 24.9, 18.8 ppm; IR (KBr): 3418, 1751 cm^{-1} ; MS (CI): m/z (%): 470 (M^+). Elemental analysis calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ (%): C, 74.02; H, 6.43; N, 5.95; found: C, 74.27; H, 6.64; N, 5.65.

Cycloadduct (4b): pale yellow solid; mp 177°C, ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.18 (m, 6H), 6.84 (m, 3H), 6.65 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.93 and 5.46 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, each 1H), 4.51 (dd, J = 9.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.68 and 3.77 (s, each 3H), 3.41 (m, 3H); 1.57 ppm (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 163.6, 157.6, 157.0, 153.3, 137.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.1, 122.8, 121.7, 116.3, 115.7, 115.1, 114.4, 111.4, 80.4, 71.7, 60.6, 57.2, 56.7, 55.6, 55.4, 33.7, 24.9, 18.6 ppm; IR (KBr): 3422, 1750 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z : 470 (M^+). Elemental analysis calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$: C, 74.02; H, 6.43; N, 5.95; found: C, 74.28; H, 6.60; N, 5.74.

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