



Synthetic Communications

An International Journal for Rapid Communication of Synthetic Organic Chemistry

ISSN: 0039-7911 (Print) 1532-2432 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/lcyc20>

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To cite this article: Sankaranarayanan Jayashree & Kalegowda Shivashankar (2018): Montmorillonite K-10 catalyzed Mannich reaction: Synthesis of aminonaphthoquinone derivatives from Lawsone, Synthetic Communications, DOI: [10.1080/00397911.2018.1466334](https://doi.org/10.1080/00397911.2018.1466334)

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Published online: 18 Jun 2018.



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Montmorillonite K-10 catalyzed Mannich reaction: Synthesis of aminonaphthoquinone derivatives from Lawsone

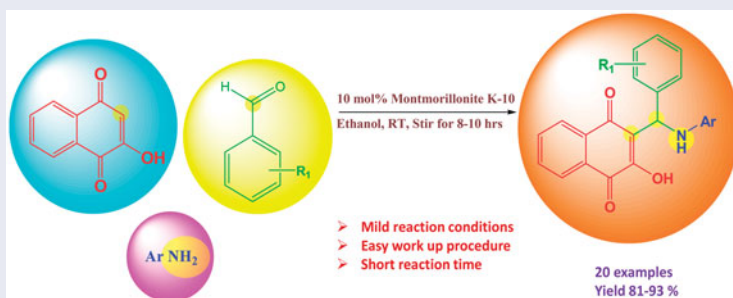
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ABSTRACT

An efficient one-pot protocol for the synthesis of 2-((substituted amino)(4-phenyl)methyl)-3-hydroxy-naphthalene-1,4-dione derivatives has been developed by the three-component reaction of 2-hydroxy-naphthalene-1,4-dione, aromatic aldehydes and anilines/heterocyclic amines using montmorillonite K-10 as a catalyst. The advantages of this method include short reaction time, excellent yield and easy work-up.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 21 February 2018

KEYWORDS

Lawsone; Mannich reaction; montmorillonite K-10; naphthoquinone; pigment

Introduction

Multicomponent reactions which combine three or more substrates in one pot have gained considerable attention in recent times. These reactions have avoided the tedious steps of protection and deprotection of functional groups, isolation of intermediates, thereby reducing the generation of waste.^[1–11]

Naphthoquinones constitute a main class of naturally occurring compounds and exhibit wide variety of fluorescent, pharmacological and medicinal properties such as antidiabetic,^[12] anti-HIV,^[13] anticancer,^[14] trypsin inhibitor,^[15] anti-inflammatory,^[16] molluscicidal,^[17] antiallergic,^[18] anticoagulant,^[19] antiacute pancreatitis,^[20] antibacterial,^[21] antimalarial^[22] and antifungal activities.^[23] Recently, bis-aziridinyl dimeric naphthoquinone

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derivatives displayed potent antileukemic activities^[24] and the coumarin-naphthoquinone conjugates targeted the human topoisomerase II effectively.^[25] The presence of secondary amino group in naphthoquinones has led to interesting biologically active compounds such as 2,2-dimethyl-3-phenylamino-2,3-dihydronaphtho[1,2-*b*]furan-4,5-diones which are active against Chagas disease^[26] and phenylaminonaphthoquinones with excellent cytotoxic activities.^[27] Naphthoquinones also exhibited electrochemical properties,^[28] nonlinear optical properties,^[29] potent organic fluorescent switching property^[30] and orange/red light emitting property in OLEDs.^[31]

Lawson (2-hydroxy-naphthalene-1,4-dione) is a natural dye (orange color) present in henna plants. People have been using Lawson as cosmetic dye for hair, finger nails, silk, wool, leather, skin, etc., since the Bronze age^[32] and for the detection of latent finger marks on paper surfaces.^[33] A literature survey revealed that one pot synthesis of these scaffolds have been achieved by employing catalysts such as InCl_3 ,^[34] *p*-toluene sulfonic acid,^[35] phenylphosphinic acid,^[36] ionic liquids,^[37] copper oxide^[38] and dendrimers.^[39] But these methods involved the use of costly reagents, toxic solvents, long reaction time and harsh conditions. Therefore, there is a need for efficient protocol to obtain these valuable organic pigments.

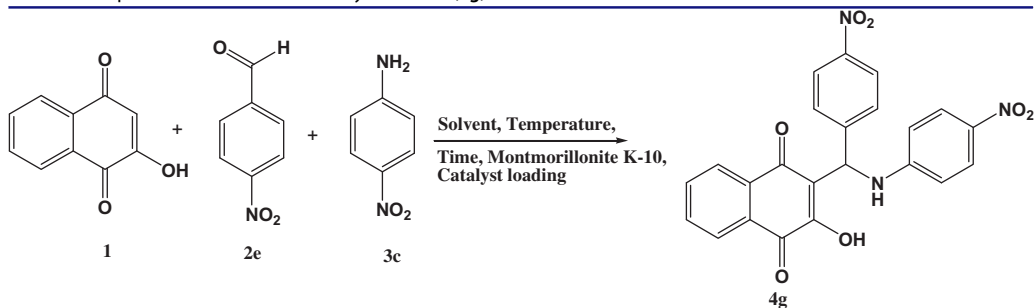
In recent years, montmorillonite K-10 has gained extensive attention in organic synthesis due to its unique properties of readily affordable, commercially available, non-hazardous and tolerance to moisture as well as air making it the ideal catalyst. Owing to these advantages, montmorillonite K-10 has been explored as an efficient catalyst for various organic transformations such as Diels-Alder reaction,^[40] Pinacol-Pinacolone rearrangement,^[41] Friedlander synthesis,^[42] Fischer indole synthesis,^[43] pyrolytic elimination reaction^[44] Friedel-Crafts acylation and alkylation,^[45] Heck vinylation,^[46] and formylation of phenols^[47] without loss of its activity.

In connection with our consistent interest in the development of efficient synthetic methodologies,^[48–59] we report herein a new and efficient protocol using clay catalytic system to access the synthesis of relevant scaffolds and some novel aminonaphthoquinone derivatives with benzothiazole moiety from readily available substrates.

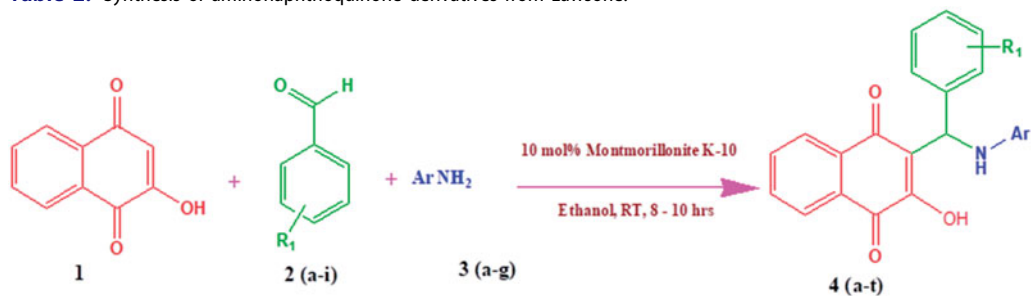
Results and discussion

First, to find the standard conditions, the reaction of Lawson (1), 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (2e) and 4-nitroaniline (3c) in acetonitrile was selected as a model. When the reaction was carried without any catalyst at ambient temperature and reflux, no desirable product (4g) was obtained even after prolonged reaction time. This pointed out clearly that a catalyst shall absolutely be needed for this reaction. When this three-component reaction was attempted using L-proline (10 mol%) as a catalyst at ambient temperature, it was observed that the reaction was end after 12 h yielding 45% of the product. We then focused on Lewis acid catalysts and among these, zinc chloride, iodine, bismuth nitrate pentahydrate and montmorillonite K-10 has resulted in 20%, 33%, 38% and 58% of target product (4g), respectively.

We next performed a screening of various solvents such as water, chloroform, toluene, xylene, dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran and ethanol. The results of Table 1 revealed that ethanol was the most suitable solvent for the reaction in terms of time, temperature and yield. Subsequent experiments revealed that catalyst loading could be

Table 1. Optimization studies for the synthesis of (4g).

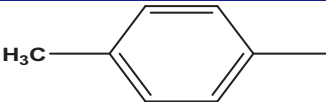
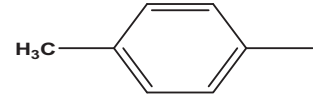
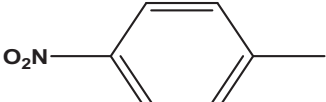
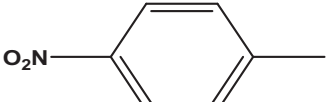
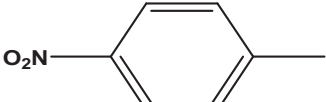
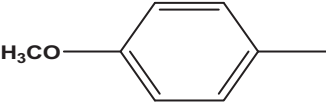
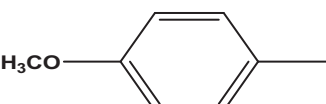
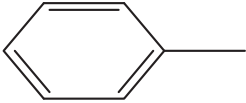
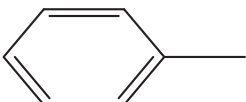
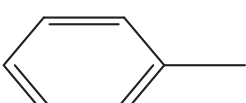
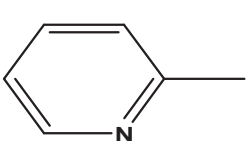
Entry	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Catalyst (mol%)	Yield (%)
1	Water	Reflux	8	10	60
2	Chloroform	Reflux	12	10	20
3	Toluene	Reflux	15	10	30
4	Acetonitrile	Reflux	12	10	58
5	Xylene	Reflux	16	10	27
6	Dichloromethane	Reflux	12	10	25
7	THF	Reflux	15	10	15
8	Ethanol	Reflux	8	10	84
9	Ethanol	60	8	10	86
10	Ethanol	40	8	10	90
11	Ethanol	RT	8	10	93
12	Ethanol	RT	8	5	62
13	Ethanol	RT	8	3	41
14	Ethanol	RT	8	2	34
15	Ethanol	RT	8	15	93

Table 2. Synthesis of aminonaphthoquinone derivatives from Lawsonsone.

S.No.	R ₁	Ar	Product	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1	H		4a	8	93
2	H		4b	8	85
3	4-CH ₃		4c	8.5	88

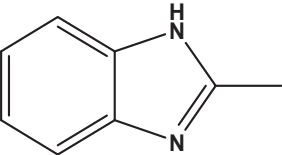
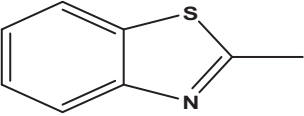
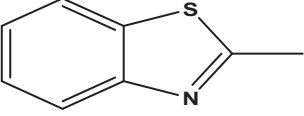
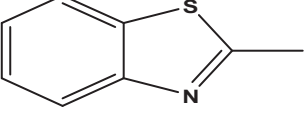
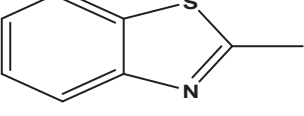
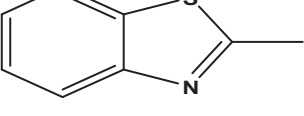
(continued)

Table 2. Continued.

S.No.	R ₁	Ar	Product	Time (h)	Yield (%)
4	4-Cl		4d	10	83
5	4-Br		4e	10	90
6	4-CH ₃		4f	8	81
7	4-NO ₂		4g	8	93
8	4-Cl		4h	8.5	90
9	4-Cl		4i	9	85
10	4-NO ₂		4j	8.25	83
11	2-NO ₂		4k	8	90
12	2,6-(CH ₃) ₂		4l	8.25	81
13	3,4,5-(OCH ₃) ₃		4m	10	83
14	4-NO ₂		4n	8	91

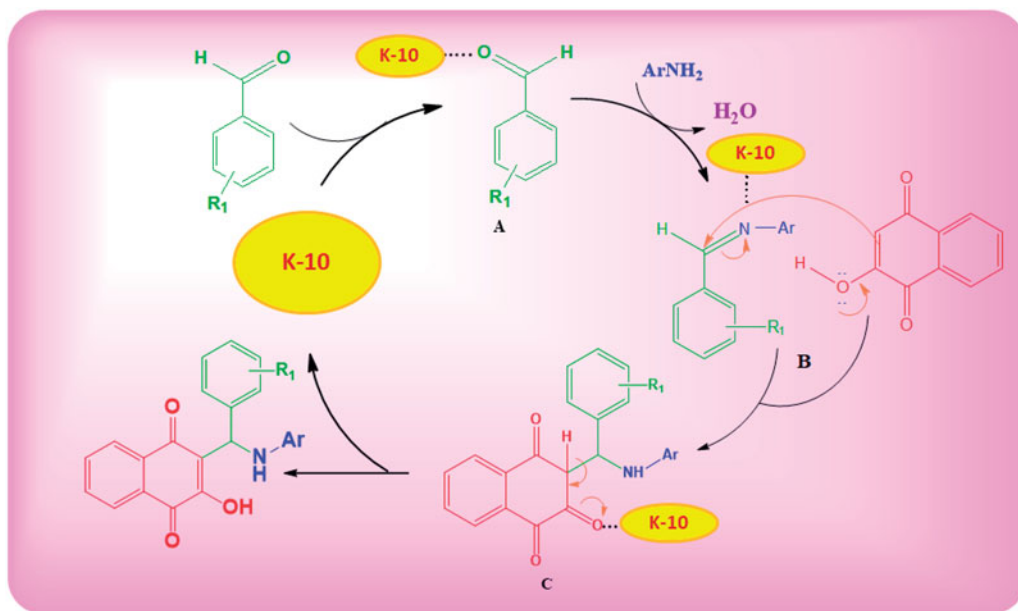
(continued)

Table 2. Continued.

S.No.	R ₁	Ar	Product	Time (h)	Yield (%)
15	4-NO ₂		4o	8	93
16	H		4p	8.25	89
17	4-NO ₂		4q	8	92
18	4-OH		4r	8	90
19	4-Br		4s	8.5	93
20	4-CH ₃		4t	8	87

optimum at 10 mol% (Table 1, entry 11), but lower amounts were detrimental. It is noteworthy that the ratio of the three starting substrates has important influence on the yield of this reaction. When the ratio of 1/2e/3c was 1:1:1, the yield was raised to 93%. Further altering the ratio, no progress of yield was observed.

In order to extend the above reaction to the library system, different substituted benzaldehydes 2(a-i) and aromatic amines 3(a-g) were allowed to react with Lawsone to give the aminonaphthoquinone derivatives 4(a-t) and representative examples are presented in Table 2. Benzaldehydes carrying both electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents displayed high reactivity under this optimized conditions to afford the desired products. Aromatic amines tethered with electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents showed similar reactivity and reacted efficiently to afford the target products. Heterocyclic amines also exhibited a high reactivity under this standard condition to yield the final products. The aminonaphthoquinones reported by Dabiri et al.^[34] (4a, 4b, 4c, 4e) and the compounds reported by Shahram et al.^[39] (4d, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4i, 4j, 4h, 4n, 4o) are also obtained efficiently using this current protocol. It



Scheme 1. Plausible mechanism for the synthesis of aminonaphthoquinone derivatives.

is noteworthy that it is possible to synthesize a series of aminonaphthoquinones containing phenyl, pyridyl, benzimidazolyl and benzothiazolyl moieties. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report for the synthesis of aminonaphthoquinone derivatives with benzothiazolyl moiety.

A speculative mechanistic explanation for this reaction based on previously reported literature^[34,39] is provided in Scheme 1. In the first step, aromatic amines attacked the activated benzaldehydes (A) to form activated imines (B). The latter compounds reacted with Lawsone, to give an intermediate (C) that underwent tautomerization to yield the products. Montmorillonite K-10 is likely to enhance the rate of Mannich reaction.

Conclusion

To concise, we reported a range of aminonaphthoquinone derivatives with complete control over the substitution pattern. Mild reaction conditions, easy work-up and catalyst recovery are prominent features of this protocol. Furthermore, a promising pathway for the introduction of heterocyclic amines like 2-aminopyridine, 2-aminobenzimidazole and 2-aminobenzothiazole is explored.

Experimental

General information

The melting points were recorded on an Electrothermal melting point apparatus. The FT-IR (ATR) analysis was carried out on Cary 630 FT-IR spectrophotometer (Agilent Technologies, Stevens Creek Blvd, Santa Clara, USA). ¹H NMR (for 400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (for 100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker spectrometer using DMSO-*d*₆

as a solvent and Tetra Methyl Silane (TMS) as an internal standard. The chemical shifts are expressed in δ ppm. The mass analysis was recorded on a Micro Mass QTOF mass spectrometer. The purity of the compounds was checked by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC).

Typical experimental procedure for the preparation of 2-hydroxy-3-((4-nitrophenyl)(4-nitrophenyl)amino)methyl)naphthalene-1,4-dione (4g)

A mixture of 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.151 g, 1 mmol), 4-nitroaniline (0.138 g, 1 mmol), 2-hydroxy-naphthalene-1,4-dione (0.174 g, 1 mmol) and montmorillonite K-10 (0.005 g, 10 mol %) was stirred in ethanol (3 mL). After the completion of the reaction, as indicated by TLC, the mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and the catalyst was separated by filtration. The catalyst was washed thoroughly with acetone and dried. The recovered catalyst was reused up to four runs without any significant loss of its activity. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to get the crude product that was recrystallized from ethanol.

2-Hydroxy-3-((4-nitrophenyl)(4-nitrophenyl)amino)methyl)naphthalene-1,4-dione (4g)

Yield 93%; a yellow solid; mp: 134–136 °C. IR (ATR cm^{-1}): 3408 (OH), 3334 (NH), 1685 (C=O), 1656 (C=O); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 11.23 (s, 1H, OH), 10.13 (s, 1H, NH), 8.15–6.79 (m, 12H, Ar-H), 6.08 (s, 1H, CH) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 183.1, 181.3, 153.4, 151.2, 149.2, 146.7, 136.2, 135.0 (2C), 131.4, 130.2, 128.4 (2C), 127.0 (2C), 126.7 (2C), 125.2 (2C), 117.1, 114.5 (2C), 52.3 ppm.

Acknowledgments

S.J. is thankful to CSIR for providing Senior Research Fellowship (SRF).

Funding

This study was supported by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, India [Grants Reference no. 02(0172)/13/EMR-II, Dated: 21.10.2013].

Supporting information

This material can be found via "Supplementary Content" section of this article's webpage.

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