

Indium(III) Acetate-Catalyzed 1,4-Reduction and Reductive Aldol Reactions of α -Enones with Phenylsilane

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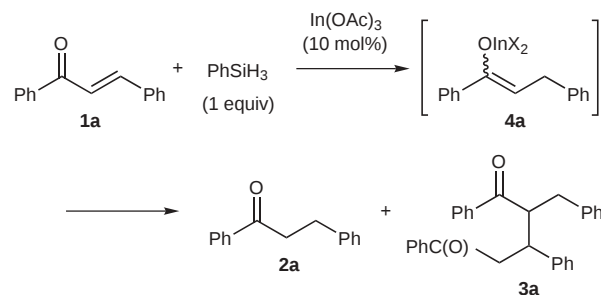
Abstract: A catalytic amount of $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ smoothly promoted 1,4-reduction of certain α -enones with PhSiH_3 in ethanol at ambient temperature. The intermediary enolates could be used for inter- and intramolecular aldol reactions and intramolecular Michael addition.

Key words: indium, reductions, enones, silicon, aldol reactions

Catalytic 1,4-hydrometalation of α -enones provides a reliable and efficient method for regioselective formation of metal enolates.^{1–4} Recently, much attention has been given to the development of catalytic systems effecting both the enolate formation and the subsequent reaction with co-existent carbon electrophiles.^{5–7} Some transition metal salts and complexes work as effective catalysts of this tandem process. All catalytic systems except those reported by Krische's group^{5,7} were utilized only for reductive aldol reactions of α -enones with aldehydes. We herein disclose that $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ efficiently catalyzes the 1,4-reduction of certain α -enones with PhSiH_3 , and the intermediary enolates can be used for carbon-carbon bond-forming reactions with aldehydes, ketones, and α -enones.^{8,9}

The reduction of (*E*)-1,3-diphenyl-2-propen-1-one (chalcone, **1a**) with PhSiH_3 was initially examined for optimization of the reaction conditions (Table 1). The $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -catalyzed reaction in THF at 70 °C gave the desired ketone **2a** as the major product; however, a significant amount of dimerization product **3a** was also obtained (entry 1).¹⁰ The formation of **3a** is attributable to the Michael addition of indium enolate intermediate **4a** to **1a**. Proton sources such as water and EtOH were used to suppress this side reaction by protonation of **4a** (entries 2 and 3). As a result, the addition of EtOH was found to be effective not only in suppressing the formation of **3a** but also in accelerating the 1,4-reduction of **1a**. The use of EtOH as solvent further enhanced the reaction rate to enable the reduction at room temperature (entry 4).¹¹ Thus the $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -catalyzed reduction of **1a** in EtOH was completed in 1.5 hours at room temperature to give **2a** in 90% yield.¹² Indium metal was deposited under these reaction conditions. Since indium trihydride is known to easily decompose to indium metal and H_2 ,¹³ this observation is indicative of the formation of indium hydride species.

Table 1 Optimization of Reaction Conditions for $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -Catalyzed 1,4-Reduction^a



Entry	Solvent	Additive	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Isolated yield (%)	
					2a	3a
1	THF	None	70	24	56	26
2	THF	H_2O^b	70	24	67	Trace
3	THF	EtOH^b	70	3	76	Trace
4	EtOH	None	r.t.	1.5	90	0
5 ^c	EtOH	None	r.t.	1.5	0	0

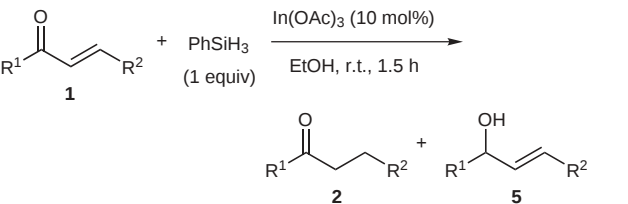
^a Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out with **1a** (208 mg, 1.00 mmol), PhSiH_3 (108 mg, 1.00 mmol), and $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ (30 mg, 0.10 mmol) in solvent (2.0 mL).

^b One equivalent (1.00 mmol) of H_2O or EtOH was used.

^c Without $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$.

Without $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$, the reduction of **1a** did not proceed at all (entry 5). Accordingly, indium hydride species would act as the actual reductant.

The $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -catalyzed system using EtOH as solvent was applied to the reduction of some α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds (Table 2).¹⁴ Similar to **1a**, (*E*)-1-phenyl-2-buten-1-one (**1b**), 1-phenyl-2-propen-1-one (**1c**), and (*E,E*)-1,5-diphenyl-1,4-pentadien-3-one (**1d**) underwent 1,4-reduction to give the corresponding ketones **2** in good yields (entries 1–4). In the case of **1d**, a small amount of 1,5-diphenyl-3-pentanone was formed by double 1,4-reduction. The reduction of (*E*)-4-phenyl-3-buten-2-one (**1e**) gave 1,4- and 1,2-reduction products, **2e** and **5e**, in low yields and **1e** was recovered in 75% yield (entry 5). Similarly, (*E*)-3-decen-2-one (**1f**) was less reactive than **1a–d**. Slow addition of PhSiH_3 slightly improved the yield of **2f** (entry 6). 5-Phenyl-1-penten-3-one (**1g**), a vinyl ketone, showed high reactivity, but low chemoselec-

Table 2 In(OAc)₃-Catalyzed Reduction of α,β -Unsaturated Carbonyl Compounds with PhSiH₃^a


Entry	Substrate		Isolated yield (%)
	R ¹	R ²	
1	Ph	Ph	(1a) 90 0
2	Ph	Me	(1b) 84 0
3	Ph	H	(1c) 93 0
4	(<i>E</i>)-PhCH=CH	Ph	(1d) 72 ^b 0
5	Me	Ph	(1e) 15 ^c 8 ^c
6	Me	<i>n</i> -Hex	(1f) 30 ^{c,d} 54 ^{c,e}
7	PhCH ₂ CH ₂	H	(1g) 63 23
8	EtO	Ph	(1h) 0 0
9	H	Ph	(1i) 0 80

^a Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out with **1** (0.50 mmol), PhSiH₃ (54 mg, 0.50 mmol), and In(OAc)₃ (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH (1.0 mL) at r.t. for 1.5 h.

^b 1,5-Diphenyl-3-pentanone also was obtained in 14% yield.

^c The yield was determined by ¹H NMR analysis using benzyl acetate as the internal standard.

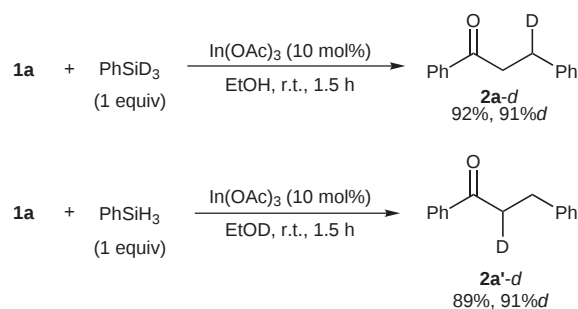
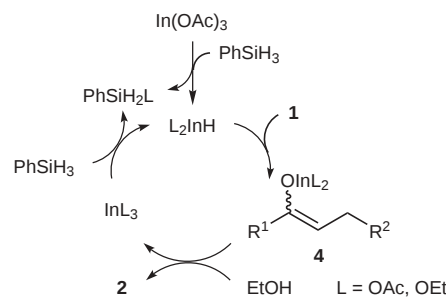
^d The reaction was run for 24 h.

^e The enhanced yield was obtained by the following method: PhSiH₃ was added dropwise to the mixture of **1f**, In(OAc)₃, and EtOH over 1 h. The resultant mixture was stirred for 24 h.

tivity (entry 7). The present catalytic system was ineffective in the reduction of ethyl cinnamate (**1h**, entry 8). In the case of cinnamaldehyde (**1i**), only the 1,2-reduction was observed (entry 9).

Dichloroindium hydride (Cl₂InH) has been reported to be valuable for radical reduction of alkyl halides.¹⁵ The In(OAc)₃-catalyzed reaction of **1a** with PhSiH₃ gave **2a** efficiently even in the presence of galvinoxyl, a radical scavenger. The present 1,4-reduction would therefore not involve a radical chain mechanism although the deposition of indium metal suggests the presence of indium hydride species. In the 1,4-reduction of **1a**, the use of PhSiD₃ instead of PhSiH₃ provided **2a-d** by β -deuteration, while the use of EtOD as solvent resulted in α -deuteration (Scheme 1). Judging from these results, the present 1,4-reduction could proceed via the following mechanism (Scheme 2): (1) transmetalation between In(OAc)₃ and PhSiH₃ in EtOH forms an indium hydride species (HInL₂, L = OAc, OEt), (2) 1,4-addition of the hydride to an α -enone **1** leads to the corresponding indium enolate **4**, (3)

solvolysis of **4** gives the 1,4-reduction product **2** and InL₃, (4) transmetalation between InL₃ and PhSiH₃ regenerates HInL₂.

**Scheme 1****Scheme 2**

The mechanistic consideration induced us to utilize the indium enolate intermediate **4** for carbon-carbon bond formation. We thus examined the In(OAc)₃-catalyzed reductive aldol reaction of α -enones, aldehydes, and PhSiH₃. Initially, enone **1b** and 1-naphthaldehyde (**6a**) were selected as the substrates for optimization of the reaction conditions (Table 3). Expectedly, the reaction of **1b**, **6a**, and PhSiH₃ (molar ratio = 1:1:1) at room temperature gave the desired aldol **7ba** in 65% yield along with **2b** (32%) and 1-naphthylmethanol (ca. 30%, entry 1).¹⁶ This result indicates that the In(OAc)₃-catalyzed reduction of **1b** is faster than that of **6a**.¹⁷ The use of an excess amount of **6a** improved the yield of **7ba** (entry 2). Lowering the reaction temperature brought about high *syn*-selectivity although the reaction rate became much slower (entry 3). With a decreased amount of EtOH, **7ba** was obtained in high yield with high *syn*-diastereoselectivity (entries 4 and 5).¹⁸

The optimized conditions were applied to other combinations of enones **1** and aldehydes **6** (Table 4).¹⁹ The reductive aldol reaction of phenyl ketones **1a-c** with aromatic aldehydes proceeded in high yields with high *syn*-diastereoselectivity except the case with *p*-cyanobenzaldehyde (entries 1–4, 7, 8, and 11). The use of aliphatic aldehydes lowered the reaction efficiency and the *syn*-selectivity (entries 5, 6, 9, and 10).²⁰ Aliphatic α -enones also underwent the reductive coupling to give the corresponding aldol products in moderate yields (entries 12–14).

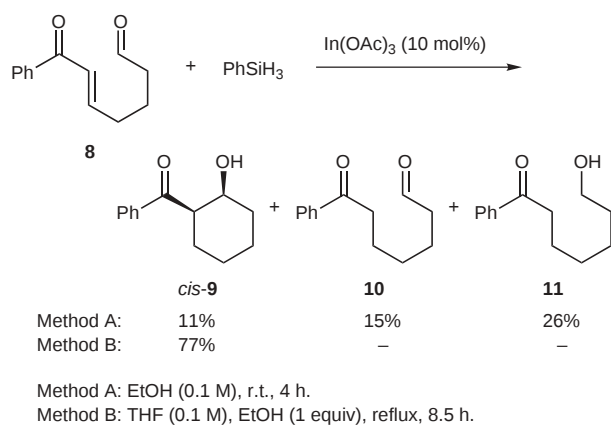
Table 3 Optimization of Reaction Conditions for $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -Catalyzed Reductive Aldol Reaction^a

Entry	EtOH (mL)	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Isolated yield (%)	syn:anti
1 ^b	1.0	r.t.	24	65	74:26
2	1.0	r.t.	13	82	84:16
3	1.0	0	60	45	92:8
4	0.5	0	60	82	92:8
5	0.25	0	36	83	92:8

^a Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out with **1b** (73 mg, 0.50 mmol), **6a** (102 mg, 0.65 mmol), PhSiH_3 (54 mg, 0.50 mmol), and $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH.

^b With **6a** (0.50 mmol).

Our attention was next focused on intramolecular reductive coupling by the $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ - PhSiH_3 system. The $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -catalyzed reaction of α -enone **8**,²¹ bearing a formyl group, with PhSiH_3 was performed under similar conditions as those used for the intermolecular reductive aldol reaction (Scheme 3, method A). However, the desired cyclized product **9** was obtained in only a poor yield. The formation of reduction products **10** and **11** was favored over the intramolecular aldol reaction. As the result of various attempts, it was found that the reaction of **8** in THF containing EtOH at reflux gave *cis*-**9** in 77% yield (Scheme 3, method B).^{22,23} The *trans* isomer of **9** was not obtained.

**Scheme 3****Table 4** $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -Catalyzed Reductive Aldol Reaction of α -Enones **1**, Aldehydes **6**, and PhSiH_3 ^a

Reaction scheme showing the synthesis of compound **7** from enone **1**, aldehyde **6**, and PhSiH₃ using In(OAc)₃ (10 mol%) in EtOH at 0 °C for 36 h.

Entry	Substrates				Yield ^b	<i>syn:anti</i>
	R ¹	R ²		R	(%)	
1	Ph	Me	(1b)	1-Np	83	92:8
2 ^c				Ph	84	92:8
3				<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	96	96:4
4				<i>p</i> -NCC ₆ H ₄	85	69:31
5 ^c				<i>n</i> -C ₇ H ₁₅	66	77:23
6				<i>c</i> -Hex	37	72:28
7	Ph	Ph	(1a)	1-Np	86	86:14
8 ^c				Ph	94	87:13
9 ^c				<i>n</i> -C ₇ H ₁₅	71	70:30
10 ^c				<i>c</i> -Hex	53	71:29
11	Ph	H	(1c)	1-Np	92	92:8
12 ^c	Me	<i>n</i> -Hex	(1f)	1-Np	49	87:13
13	Me	H	(1j)	1-Np	47	88:12
14				Ph	60	85:15

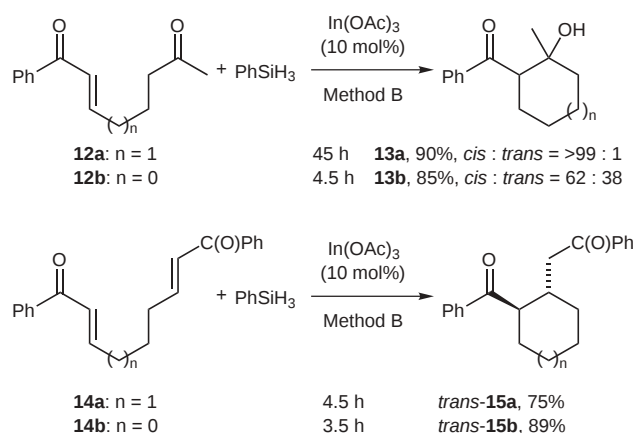
^a Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out with **1** (0.50 mmol), **6** (0.65 mmol), PhSiH_3 (54 mg, 0.50 mmol), and $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH (0.25 mL) at 0 °C for 36 h.

^b Isolated yield.

^c The reaction time is 72 h.

The cyclizations of enones **12** and bis-enones **14** also were efficiently promoted by method B (Scheme 4).^{21,22} The reductive aldol reaction of **12a** afforded *cis*-**13a** with complete stereocontrol.²³ Enone **12b** showed much higher reactivity than **12a**, but the cyclization resulted in low diastereoselectivity. The reductive Michael reaction of **14** leading to 1,5-diketones **15** proceeded with complete *trans* selectivity.²³

In conclusion, we have found that the combination of $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ and PhSiH_3 is quite useful for both 1,4-reduction of certain α -enones and their intermolecular reductive aldol reaction under mild conditions.⁹ The $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ - PhSiH_3 system is rather neutral (less Lewis acidic) and it works well in EtOH, a less harmful solvent, at room temperature or 0 °C. This catalytic system is applicable to intramolecular reductive aldol and Michael reactions with some modifications of the reaction conditions. We are now studying further application of the $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ - PhSiH_3 system, and the results will be reported in due course.



Scheme 4

Acknowledgment

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- (9) Quite recently, Baba et al. have reported a similar catalytic system for reductive aldol reaction, in which InBr_3 and Et_3SiH are used as catalyst and reducing agent, respectively. See: Shibata, I.; Kato, H.; Ishida, T.; Yasuda, M.; Baba, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 711.
- (10) The use of $\text{In}(\text{acac})_3$ (acac = acetylacetonate) instead of $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ gave **2a** and **3a** in 34% and 65% yields, respectively. InCl_3 also promoted the reaction of **1a** with PhSiH_3 in Et_2O at r.t. (**2a**, 29%; **3a**, 49%).
- (11) The use of other hydrosilanes [Et_3SiH , PhMe_2SiH , poly(methylhydrosiloxane)] instead of PhSiH_3 resulted in no reduction under the same conditions.
- (12) The use of a half amount of PhSiH_3 lowered the yield to 62%.
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- (14) **General Procedure for the $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -Catalyzed 1,4-Reduction of α -Enones with PhSiH_3 :** Under N_2 , α -enone **1** (0.50 mmol) and PhSiH_3 (54 mg, 0.50 mmol) were added to a suspension of $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH (1.0 mL). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1.5 h and quenched with sat. aq NaHCO_3 . The extract with *t*-BuOMe was dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The residual oil was purified by silica gel column chromatography.
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- (16) As shown here, the reductive aldol reaction is much slower than the 1,4-reduction. This observation is attributable to slow regeneration of the indium hydride species from the indium aldolate intermediate.
- (17) The $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -catalyzed reduction of **6a** with PhSiH_3 (r.t., 1.5 h) gave 1-naphthylmethanol in 82% yield.
- (18) As proposed by Baba et al. (ref.⁹), the *syn*-selectivity can be attributed by the formation of **Z-4b** by a concerted hydroindation and the subsequent aldol addition via a cyclic transition state. However, we have no evidence of the selective formation of **Z-4b**.
- (19) **Typical Procedure for the $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ -Catalyzed Reductive Aldol Reaction of α -Enones with Aldehydes:** Under N_2 , α -enone **1b** (73 mg, 0.50 mmol), **6a** (102 mg, 0.65 mmol), and PhSiH_3 (54 mg, 0.50 mmol) were added to a suspension of $\text{In}(\text{OAc})_3$ (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH (0.25 mL). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 36 h. The work-up and purification were performed by the procedure described in ref.¹⁴. Compound **7ba** (*syn:anti* = 92:8): IR (neat): 3540 (br s, OH), 1680 (C=O) cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 0.69 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2.76 H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.24 H), 1.63–1.79 (m, 1 H), 1.89–2.08 (m, 1 H), 3.52 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 0.08 H), 3.80 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 0.92 H), 3.96 (ddd, J = 9.1, 3.8, 3.6 Hz, 0.92 H), 4.11 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.2, 5.9 Hz, 0.08 H), 5.82 (dd, J = 6.2, 5.9 Hz, 0.08 H), 5.85 (br s, 0.92 H), 7.31–7.96 (m, 12 H). ^{13}C NMR (68 MHz, CDCl_3) for the major isomer: δ = 12.25 (CH_3), 20.17 (CH_2), 51.62 (CH), 70.12 (CH),

- 122.49 (CH), 124.51 (CH), 125.28 (CH), 125.34 (CH), 126.04 (CH), 127.94 (CH), 128.38 (CH $\times$ 2), 128.75 (CH $\times$ 2), 129.14 (CH), 129.86 (C), 133.63 (CH), 133.73 (C), 136.69 (C), 137.22 (C), 206.37 (C). For the minor isomer (only well-resolved peaks): δ = 11.88 (CH₃), 24.18 (CH₂), 53.14 (CH), 72.85 (CH), 123.01 (CH), 124.37 (CH), 125.48 (CH), 126.17 (CH), 128.07 (CH), 128.43 (CH), 129.03 (CH), 130.53 (C), 133.16 (CH), 138.15 (C), 206.08 (C).
- (20) The reaction of **1b** with octanal was carried out in THF containing an equimolar amount of EtOH at 70 °C. However, both the yield of **7** and the *syn*-selectivity dropped to 52% and 56% *syn*, respectively.
- (21) According to the method reported by Montgomery et al., **8** and **14a** were prepared by ozonolysis of cyclopentene and the subsequent Wittig olefination with Ph₃PCHC(O)Ph. This method was used also for the preparation of **12a**, **12b**, and **14b** from 1-methylcyclopentene, 1,5-dimethyl-1,5-cyclooctadiene, and 1,5-cyclooctadiene, respectively. See: (a) Montgomery, J.; Savchenko, A. V.; Zhao, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, *60*, 5699. (b) See also the following paper for the preparation of **12a** and **12b**: Huddleston, R. R.; Cauble, D. F.; Krische, M. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 11.
- (22) For the stereochemical assignment of **9**, **15a**, and **15b**, see ref.^{7a}. The relative configurations of **13a** and **13b** were determined by their NMR data reported in ref.^{21b}.
- (23) Krische et al. have reported *cis*-selective reductive aldol reactions of **8** and **12a**, and *trans*-selective reductive Michael reaction of **14**. See ref.⁷ and ref.^{21b}