

Synthetic Methods

Copper-Mediated [3+2] Annulation of 3-*N*-Hydroxyallylamines with Nitrosoarenes

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Abstract: Cu-mediated annulations of *N*-hydroxyallylamines with nitrosoarenes proceed through unprecedented formal [3+2] cycloadditions of *N*-hydroxyaminoallyl radicals with nitrosoarenes. Our mechanistic analysis opposes a 5-*endo-trig* cyclization involved in the final ring-closure step. To manifest the reaction utility, chemical elaborations of resulting isoxazolidinyl products into 2- or 3-substituted quinoline *N*-oxides and acyclic 1,3-diamino-2-ols are also described.

[3+2] Cycloaddition reactions are powerful tools to access five-membered carbo- or heterocyclic compounds.^[1] Allyl radicals are versatile to react with various π -bond motifs to implement formation of a C–X (X=C, N) bond.^[2–4] In the gaseous phase, allylic radicals can undergo [3+2] cycloadditions with butadienes,^[3a] acetylenes,^[3b] alkenes,^[3c] allenes,^[3d] and indenenes,^[3e] albeit with poor chemoselectivity. Such radical [3+2] cycloadditions are unlikely to occur in solution, because a final 5-*endo-trig* cyclization is a difficult process according to Baldwin's rule.^[5] We are aware of no example of [3+2] cycloadditions of allyl radicals with any kind of 2 π -bond motif, although 5-*endo-trig* cyclizations have been reported for alkenes of special types.^[6] The development of such radical [3+2] cycloadditions is highly desirable in allyl radical chemistry.

We reported Cu-catalyzed aerobic oxidations of 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamines to form initially nitroxy radicals **I**,^[7,8] which were convertible to 3-*N*-hydroxyaminoallylic radicals **I'**, possibly by an intermolecular hydrogen transfer. The dimerization of **I'** yielded no common 1,5-hexadiene derivatives, but afforded 1,4-dihydroxy-2,3-diaminocyclohexanes **I'**₂ efficiently [Eq. (1)].^[9] Herein, we report Cu-mediated [3+2] annulation reactions of 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamines with nitrosoarenes to form isoxazolidin-5-yl products **3** [Eq. (2)] with excellent diastereoselectivities (d.r. > 25:1). Notably, the overall transformation represents a 3-amino-1,2-dioxygenation of an allylamine skeleton. Our mechanistic analysis opposes a 5-*endo-trig* radical cyclization; instead, the success of these radical [3+2] annulations is attributed to the relay action of allyl radical **I'** and its *N*-hydroxyamino functionality. Chemical elaborations of resulting product

3 into highly functionalized *N*- and *O*-containing compounds will be described.

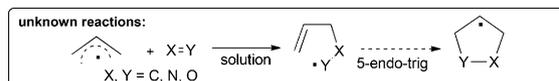
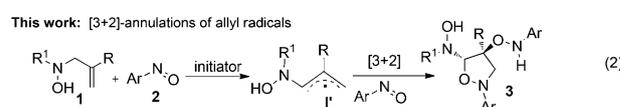
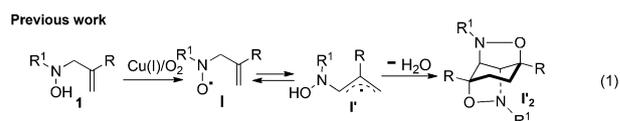


Table 1 shows the optimizations of [3+2] annulation reactions of 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamine **1a** (1.0 equiv) with nitrosobenzene (**2a**; 2 equiv) using various Cu salts, oxidants, and solvents. We initially tested the reaction with CuBr₂, CuCl₂, CuBr, and CuCl (5 mol%) in toluene/O₂ at 25 °C, affording isoxazolidinyl product **3a** in 24–58% yields (entries 1–4) that indicated the Cu^I is more efficient than the Cu^{II}. The diazene oxide **2a'** was isolated in small proportions (18–20%). Interestingly, the

Table 1. Optimization of reaction conditions.

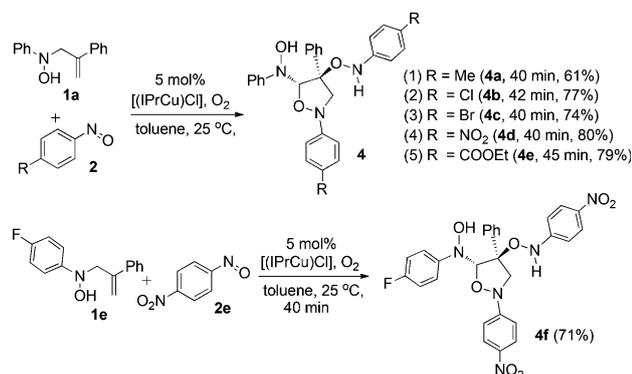
Entry	Initiator [mol %]	Oxidant	Solvent ^[a]	Products Yield [%] ^[b]		
				1a	3a	2a'
1	CuBr ₂ (5)	O ₂	toluene	–	24	20
2	CuCl ₂ (5)	O ₂	toluene	–	27	26
3	CuBr (5)	O ₂	toluene	–	58	18
4	CuCl (5)	O ₂	toluene	–	48	22
5	[(IPr)CuCl] (5)	O ₂	toluene	–	73	traces
6	[(IPr)CuCl] (5)	H ₂ O ₂ ^[c]	toluene	–	54	10
7	[(IPr)CuCl] (5)	<i>t</i> BuOOH ^[c]	toluene	–	56	4
8	[(IPr)CuCl] (5)	O ₂	DCE	–	62	6
9	[(IPr)CuCl] (5)	O ₂	THF	–	67	3
10	[(IPr)CuCl] (5)	N ₂	toluene	74	traces	25
11	–	O ₂	toluene	–	traces	15
12	TEMPO (10)	N ₂	toluene	–	60	5

[a] **1a** (0.15 M, 1 equiv) and **2a** (0.30 M, 2 equiv). [b] Product yields are reported after purification through a neutral alumina column. [c] Molecular sieve 4Å was added.

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presence of the nitrosoarene completely suppressed the formation of oxidative dimerization product **1'**₂. We envisage that the acidic Cu^{II} complex likely coordinates with *N*-hydroxylamine **1a** to inhibit the formation of nitroso radicals.^[7] Accordingly, we tested electron-rich [(IPr)CuCl] (IPr = 1,3-bis(diisopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene), which greatly increased the yield of desired **3a** (up to 73%) with diazene oxide **2a'** obtained in a negligible amount. With [(IPr)CuCl] (5 mol%), other oxidants, such as H₂O₂ and *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP), afforded desired **3a** in 54% and 56% yields, respectively (entries 6–7). Other solvents, like 1,2-dichloroethane and THF, afforded compound **3a** in 62% and 67% yields, respectively (entries 8 and 9). In the absence of O₂, no reaction occurred, and initial **1a** was recovered in 74% yield (entry 10). Likewise, the reaction led to a mixture of complicated products if no Cu catalysts were employed (entry 11). The use of 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine *N*-oxide (TEMPO) under N₂ also implemented this annulation, yielding desired **3a** in 60% yield (entry 12). These data suggest that both Cu/O₂ and TEMPO serve as radical initiators. The isoxazolidinyl framework of compound **3a** was inferred from an X-ray diffraction of its relative **4f** (Scheme 1).^[10]



Scheme 1. Reaction scope of nitrosoarenes.

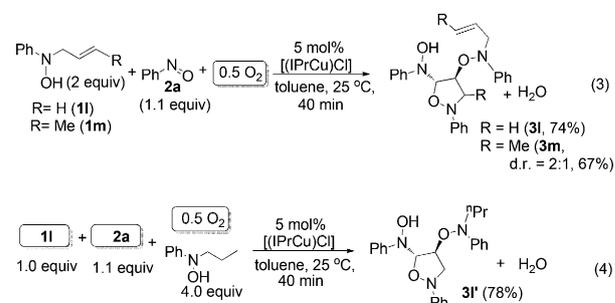
Table 2 shows the generalization of this [3+2] annulation using various 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamines **1b–1k** (1.0 equiv) and nitrosoarene (**2a**; 2.0 equiv). The reactions were mediated with [(IPr)CuCl] (5 mol%) under O₂ (1 atm.) in toluene (25 °C, 0.5–1.0 h), yielding **3b–3k** as single diastereomeric products (d.r. >25:1). We tested the reactions on *N*-hydroxyallylamines **1b–1e** bearing electron-rich and -deficient aniline substituents (X = CH₃, *t*Bu, Cl, and F; entries 1–4), the resulting products **3b–3e** were obtained in satisfactory yields (68–76%). The reaction is extensible to additional substrates **1f–1h** bearing various aryl groups at the alkenyl C2-carbons (Ar = 4-Me-Ph, 4-Cl-Ph, 2-thienyl), yielding desired compounds **3f–3h** in 71–74% yields (entries 5–7). To our delight, these annulations were compatible with substrates **1i–1k** bearing various alkyl groups at the alkenyl C2-carbons (R = Me, Et, isopentyl); their desired products **3i–3k** were obtained in reasonable yields (54–67%; entries 8–10). A complicated mixture of products was obtained when we attempted the reaction on *tert*-butyl-substituted *N*-hydroxyallylamine.

Table 2. Tests on 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamines.

1) X = CH₃ (**3b**^[a], 30 min, 70%)^[b]
 2) X = *t*-Bu (**3c**, 30 min, 68%)
 3) X = Cl (**3d**, 37 min, 73%)
 4) X = F (**3e**, 37 min, 76%)
 5) Ar = 4-Me-Ph (**3f**, 35 min, 74%)
 6) Ar = 4-Cl-Ph (**3g**, 37 min, 71%)
 7) Ar = 2-thienyl (**3h**, 35 min, 73%)
 8) R = Me (**3i**, 40 min, 67%)
 9) R = Et (**3j**, 60 min, 62%)
 10) R = Isopentyl (**3k**, 60 min, 54%)

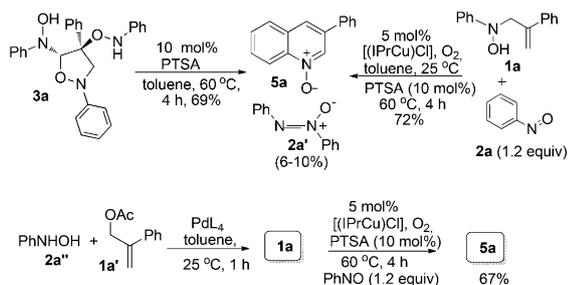
[a] **1b** (0.14 M, 1 equiv) and **2a** (0.30 M, 2 equiv). [b] Product yields are reported after purification through a neutral alumina column.

The Cu-mediated reactions of C2-unsubstituted *N*-hydroxyallylamines **1l** and **1m** with nitrosoarene (**2a**) proceeded through a distinct aerobic oxidation, such that O₂ was an oxidant rather than a radical activator; the optimized yields of desired **3l** and **3m** were 74% and 67%, respectively, with a molar ratio of amine/**2a** = 2.0:1.1 [Eq. (3)]. Herein, initial *N*-hydroxyallylamine **1l** acted as a nucleophile, which was replaceable by other *N*-hydroxyallylamines. We successfully employed *N*-hydroxyaminopropane (4 equiv) as a nucleophile, affording compound **3l'** in 78% yield [Eq. (4)].



The reaction scope was expanded with various nitrosoarenes (Scheme 1). The reaction of 4-methyl-substituted nitrosoarene (R = Me) gave isoxazolidin-5-yl species **4a** in 61% yield. The reaction became more efficient with electron-deficient nitrosoarenes (R = Cl, Br, NO₂, and CO₂Et), affording products **4b–4e** in 74–80% yields. Electron-deficient nitrosoarenes are more favorable for this reaction presumably because they are efficient electron acceptors.^[11] We finally synthesized compound **4f**, which had good crystallinity for X-ray diffraction to confirm the isoxazolidinyl framework.^[10]

Scheme 2 shows the elaboration of resulting isoxazolidin-5-yl species **3a** into useful N- and O-containing compounds. Treatment of species **3a** with *p*-TSA (10 mol%) efficiently yielded substituted quinoline *N*-oxide product **5a** and diazene



Scheme 2. Chemical elaboration.

oxide in 69% and 6% yields, respectively. Importantly, product **5a** was directly accessible by heating a mixture of nitrosobenzene (**2a**; 2 equiv) and 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamines **1a** (1 equiv) with [(IPr)CuCl]/O₂ (5 mol%) and *p*-TSA (10 mol%) in toluene; the yield of resulting **5a** was 72% along with diazine oxide **2a'** at 10% yield. To highlight the value of intermediate **3a**, we developed a two-step one-pot cascade reaction involving an initial Pd-catalyzed amination of readily available allylic acetate **1a'** in toluene for 1 h, followed by heating the same solution with nitrosobenzene (**2a**; 1.2 equiv), [(IPr)CuCl], and oxygen to yield 3-phenyl quinoline *N*-oxide **5a** efficiently.

Unlike 2-substituted analogues,^[12a] the synthesis of 3-substituted quinoline *N*-oxides requires prior synthesis of their quinoline derivatives, which are usefully prepared from the condensation of expensive 2-aminobenzaldehydes with ketones or aldehydes.^[12b-d] In this regard, the synthesis of quinoline *N*-oxide **5a** in a Pd/Cu/H⁺ relay catalysis (Scheme 2) is appealing, because cheap nitrosoarenes and allylic acetates are employed in this one-pot synthesis. The reaction scope was generalized with various *N*-hydroxyaniline **2a''**, allylic acetates **1a'**, and nitrosoarenes **2** in a 1:1:1.2 molar proportions (Table 3).^[13] With electron-deficient nitrosobenzenes (X = Cl, Br, and CO₂Et), Cu-mediated annulations with species **1a'** provided 3-substituted quinoline *N*-oxides **5b–5d** in satisfactory yields (>71%, entries 1–3). This catalytic synthesis was extendible to additional allylic acetates bearing various aryl and alkyl groups at their C2-carbons (R = 4-tolyl, 4-chlorophenyl, methyl, and isopentyl), yielding 3-substituted quinoline oxides **5e–5h** in 61–70% yield (en-

Table 3. Catalytic synthesis of quinoline oxides.		
 1) X = Cl (5b ^[a] , 2.5 h, 68%)	 4) R = 4-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄ (5e , 3 h, 66%)	 8) R' = H (5i , 2 h, 69%)
 2) X = Br (5c , 3 h, 71%) ^[a]	 5) R = 4-ClC ₆ H ₄ (5f , 3 h, 70%)	 9) R' = Me, (5j , 4 h, 70%)
 3) X = COOEt (5d , 2 h, 74%)	 6) R = Me (5g , 3 h, 62%)	 10) R' = <i>n</i> -Pr, (5k , 1 h, 65%)
 7) R = Isopentyl (5h , 2.5 h, 61%)		
[a] 1' (0.3 M) and 2a'' (0.3 M). [b] Product yields are reported after purification through a silica gel column.		

tries 4–7). For unsubstituted and C3-substituted acetates **1i'** and **1m'–1o'**, resulting products **5i** and **5j–5k** were obtained in 65–70% yields (entries 8–10).

Table 4 shows the applicability of our new method to the efficient synthesis of 1,3-diamino-2-ols through reductive N–O cleavages of compounds **3**; herein, these reactions represent triple N- and O-functionalizations of readily available allylic acetates. The reactions were performed with Pd/C and H₂ (1 atm)

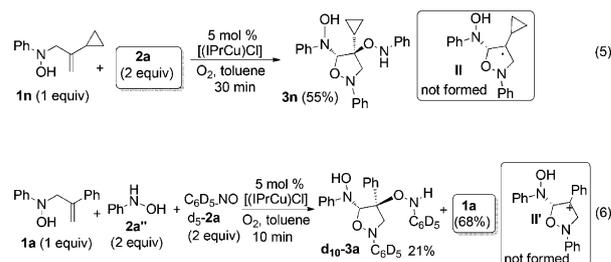
Table 4. Synthesis of 1,3-diamino-2-ols by N–O cleavage.

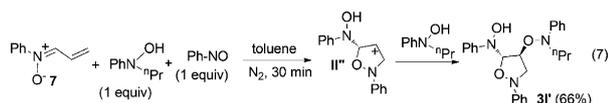
Entry	R	R'	Compounds (t [h], yield [%]) ^[b]
1	Ph	H (3a) ^[a]	6a (8, 71)
2	4-Me-Ph	H (3f)	6b (5, 76)
3	CH ₃	H (3i)	6c (6, 74)
4	isopentyl	H (3j)	6d (5, 68)
5	H	allyl (3l)	6e (6, 69)

[a] **3a** (0.045 M). [b] Product yields are reported after purification through a silica gel column.

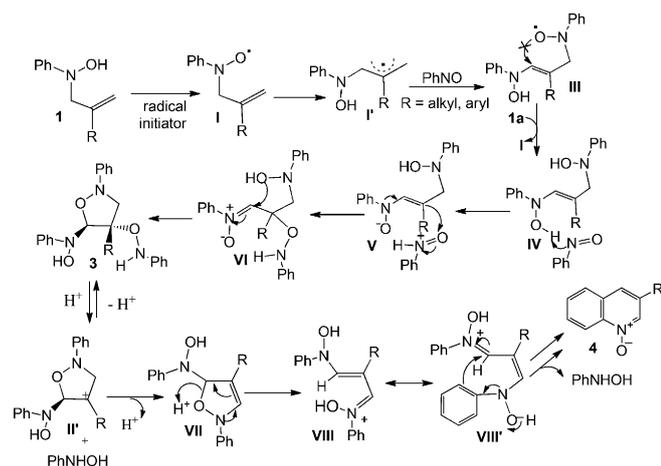
in MeOH, yielding desired products **6a–6e** exceeding 68% yields (entries 1–5).

Control experiments [Eqs. (5)–(7)] were carried out to elucidate the mechanism for our major reactions depicted in Tables 1–2 and Scheme 1. We tested a reaction on 2-cyclopropyl-substituted substrate **1n**, giving compound **3n** of the same type [Eq. (5)]; the radical **II** was thus excluded, because the cyclopropane ring of **3n** was not cleaved.^[6] To identify the source of the C2-amino group of compound **3a**, compound **1a**, *N*-hydroxyaniline (**2a''**; 2 equiv), and C₆D₅NO (*d*₅-**2a**) were tested for a brief period (10 min) to attain a 32% conversion of the reaction [Eq. (6)]. The resulting product *d*₁₀-**3a** contained mainly C₆D₅NH–O– at its C2-carbon (>90%), indicating that the C2-amino group appeared primarily from C₆D₅NO. The formation of carbocation **II'** was unlikely to occur here because potent nucleophile **2a''** did not participate in the reaction. In contrast, the reactions depicted in Equations (3) and (4), likely involve nitrene **7** according to the results in Equation (7), which gave the same product **3i'** as in Equation (4). Such nitrene species are unlikely to form for 2-substituted *N*-hydroxyallylamines according to a separate experiment.^[14]





Scheme 3 shows a plausible mechanism to rationalize the major annulations, in which [(IPr)CuCl]/O₂ acts as a radical initiator. The key step of this mechanism involves an addition of the nitrosobenzene to *N*-hydroxyaminoallyl radical I' to form new nitroso radical III.^[11] Notably, such a radical/nitroso addi-



Scheme 3. A postulated mechanism for [3+2] annulations.

tion is operable only for 2-substituted allyl radicals (R=alkyl, aryl), otherwise the nitrone species will form in the case of unsubstituted allylamine 11 [Eq. (7)]. A 5-*endo-trig* cyclization of radical III is excluded because the experiment in Equation (5) opposes radical intermediate II. Herein, we postulate that species III abstracts a hydrogen from initial 1 to form species IV and initial nitroso radical I, thus completing a radical chain reaction. Accordingly, the generation of nitroso radical 1a in catalytic amounts is sufficient for the reaction. In species IV, we envisage that the *N*-hydroxy group forms a hydrogen bond with the nitroso to increase its electrophilicity, leading to the formation of a C–O bond as depicted by intermediate V. This acid-mediated O-nitroso alkylation by enamine nucleophiles has a literature example.^[15] The 5-*exo-trig* cyclization of resulting species VI is known to be feasible to yield observed product 3a. Equation (6) excludes the intermediacy of tertiary carbocation II'. To examine the reactivity of this carbocation, we treated compound 3 with *p*-TSA to form 2,5-dihydroisoxazole intermediate VII, which subsequently underwent an acid-catalyzed ring opening to induce a skeletal rearrangement, yielding observed product 4 through an intramolecular cyclization of resulting intermediates VIII or VIII'. In the preceding VI→3 transformation, resulting 2,5-dihydroisoxazole species 3 likely exists in two diastereomeric forms; we postulate that the Brønsted acid is likely to exist in this Cu/O₂ system to promote an interconversion between species 3 and carbocation II'. The released *N*-hydroxyaniline will be closely associated with carbo-

cation II, and its attack on this cation will form single diastereomeric products.

Prior to this work, intermolecular [3+2] cycloadditions of allyl radicals with π -bond motifs remained a formidable task in solution chemistry. In summary, we reported the success of such formal cycloadditions in Cu-mediated [3+2] annulations of 3-*N*-hydroxyallylamines with nitrosoarenes. These transformations represent remarkable 3-amino-1,2-dioxygenations of allylamines. Notably, the resulting isoxazolidin-5-yl products can be transformed into 2- or 3-substituted quinoline oxides in the presence of a Brønsted acid. We subsequently employed the Pd/Cu/H⁺ relay catalysis to access these quinoline oxides directly from cheap allylic acetates. Our mechanistic analysis indicated that the addition of allyl radicals to nitrosoarenes is feasible only with 2-substituted allyl radicals; nitrone species formed in the case of unsubstituted and 3-substituted allyl- amines.

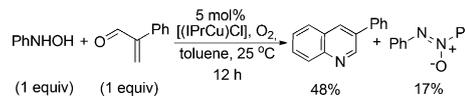
Acknowledgements

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Keywords: annulation · copper · nitrosoarenes · oxidants · radicals

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