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Synthetic Communications: An International Journal for Rapid Communication of Synthetic Organic Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: <u>http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/lsyc20</u>

PREPARATION OF N-TERT-BUTOXYCARBONYLTHIOUREA OPENS THE WAY TO PROTECTED 2-AMINOTHIAZOLES

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Published online: 16 Aug 2006.

To cite this article: Bruno Schiavi, Alain Ahond, Christiane Poupat & Pierre Potier (2002) PREPARATION OF N-TERT-BUTOXYCARBONYLTHIOUREA OPENS THE WAY TO PROTECTED 2-AMINOTHIAZOLES, Synthetic Communications: An International Journal for Rapid Communication of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, 32:11, 1671-1674, DOI: <u>10.1081/SCC-120004257</u>

To link to this article: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1081/SCC-120004257</u>

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SYNTHETIC COMMUNICATIONS, 32(11), 1671–1674 (2002)

PREPARATION OF N-TERT-BUTOXYCARBONYLTHIOUREA OPENS THE WAY TO PROTECTED 2-AMINOTHIAZOLES

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ABSTRACT

The preparation of *N-tert*-butoxycarbonylthiourea from thiourea and di-*tert*-butyldicarbonate in tetrahydrofuran is described. It has been successfully used for the preparation of 2-aminothiazole intermediates.

Key Words: 2-Aminothiazole; N-tert-Butoxycarbonylthiourea

The aminothiazole group is a very well known "pharmacophore". It is, therefore, important to have in hand an easy and high yielding method to prepare it. Iwanowicz et al.^[1,2] have efficiently prepared N,N-bis-tert-butoxycarbonylthiourea 1 from the sodium salt of thiourea 2 and di-tert-butyldicarbonate 3. Because of low concentrations, they could avoid the formation of S-acylated products.

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Because we were interested in obtaining *N-tert*-butoxy-carbonylthiourea **4** as an intermediate to prepare protected 2-aminothiazoles, we have used the same reagents but searched for convenient conditions to reach our objective. By using higher concentrations, we obtained a mixture of *N-tert*-butoxycarbonylthiourea (90%) **4** and *N-N-bis-tert*-butoxycarbonylthiourea **1** (<5%); from this mixture, *N-tert*-butoxycarbonylthiourea was easily purified by crystallization from heptane.



N-tert-butoxycarbonylthiourea **4**, prepared by this procedure, was found to be satisfactory for the preparation of 2-aminothiazole intermediates such as **7** and **8**, on the way to the synthesis of marine metabolite analogues.^[3]

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined using a Büchi BS-540 and are uncorrected; $[\alpha]_D$ was measured using a Perkin-Elmer 241 MC (589 nm, 20°C), sample in EtOH solution; UV spectra were taken with a Varian Cary 100 spectrometer, using EtOH solution. IR spectra were taken with a Perkin-Elmer BX FT-IR spectrometer, using CHCl₃ solution or KBr pellet. The ¹H and ¹³CNMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AC-200, AC-250 or AC-300. Chemical ionization mass spectra were recorded on a

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AEI MS-9 spectrophotometer with isobutane as a vector gas, electron impact spectrum on AEI MS-50 spectrophotometer. Silica gel 60 was used for flash column chromatography and silica gel $60F_{254}$ plates (0.25 mm, Merck) were used for TLC.

Preparation of 4: To a stirred solution of thiourea 2 (2.2 g, 28.9 mmol) in THF (200 ml) under argon at 0°C was added NaH (2.7 g, as 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 2.3 eq.); after 10 min, di-*tert*-butyldicarbonate 3 (6.6 g, 1.05 eq.) in solution in THF (30 ml) was added.

The 0°C bath is removed and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Dichloromethane (200 ml) was added and the organic layer washed successively with an aqueous solution of saturated NaHCO₃ (100 ml) and water (100 ml). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Addition of heptane (500 ml) to the residue provided 4.6 g of pure crystalline **4** (90%). M.p: 145°C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.61 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 182.1, 151.45, 84.0, 28.0; IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1734; UV [λ_{nm} (ϵ)]: 263 (17000); Mass *m/z* (CI, 180°C): 177 (M + H)⁺; Anal. calcd for C₆H₁₂N₂O₂S: C, 40.89; H, 6.86; N, 15.90. Found: C, 40.83; H, 6.88; N, 15.86.

Preparation of 2-*tert***-butoxycarbonyl-4**-*p***-bromophenylthiazole 7:** At room temperature, *N*-Boc thiourea **4** (100 mg, 0.56 eq.) and 2,4'-dibromoacetophenone **5** (172 mg, 0.62 eq.) are stirred in acetone (8 ml) overnight; a precipitate is formed, which is filtrated before being purified by flashchromatography (silica gel, eluent: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 99/1): 180 mg of pure **7** are obtained (yield: 82%); white solid; m.p. 210°C (dcp.); ¹H NMR (DMSOd₆); δ 1.57 [s, 9H, (CH₃)₃], 7.68 and 7.75 (2d, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, Ø-H), 7.71 (s, 1H, H-5), 7.88 and 7.90 (2d, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, Ø-H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ 27.85–27.90 (3 <u>CH₃), 81.25–81.95 (C-Me₃), 91.8–96.75 (C-Br), 108.15– 108.25 (C-5), 120.7–121.6 (C-4), 127.4–129.9 (2C-Ar), 131.25–131.5 (2C-Ar), 132.4–133.55 (C-Ar), 145.05–147.95 (C-2), 159.0–159.85 (C=O): some NMR signals are split because of the presence of rotamers; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1730; MS *m*/*z* (EI): 353–355 (M⁺), 253–255, 174; HRMS (CI, isobutane) *m*/*z* (MH)⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₆BrN₂O₂S: 354.0259/356.0238, found 354.0027/ 355.9995.</u>

Preparation of the Intermediate 8: At first, the bromoketone **6b** must be prepared, through the Swern^[4] oxidation of the corresponding alcohol **6a**.^[3] Oxalyle chloride (125 μ l, 1.5 eq), in solution in CH₂Cl₂ (2 ml) is added dropwise, under argon atmosphere at -78° C, to DMSO (163 μ l) in solution in CH₂Cl₂ (2 ml). The mixture is stirred for 10 min; then, the alcohol **6a** (378 mg, 0.95 mmol) solubilized in CH₂Cl₂ (2 ml), is added dropwise. The stirring is continued at -78° C for 15 min. After the dropwise addition of triethylamine (668 μ l, 6.5 eq), the reaction is still stirred at room temperature for 45 min before being stopped with water (25 ml). The organic layer is

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separated, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and evaporated. The crude bromoketone **6b** is purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 99:1) and directly put in reaction with N-Boc thiourea 4 (200 mg, 1.13 eq) in acetone (15 ml). The mixture is stirred at room temperature for 12h; then, the reaction is stopped by adding solid NaHCO₃: a filtration over Celite and a flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 99:1) provide 340 mg of the intermediate 8 (yield: 75%), as an amorphous solid; $\alpha_{\rm D}$ + 37 (ethanol, c = 1.4); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta -0.08$ (s, 3H, CH₃-Si), 0.13 (s, 3H, CH₃-Si), 0.85 (s, 3H, CH₃ thexyle), 0.86 (s, 3H, CH₃ thexyle), 0.89 [d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H, (CH₃)₂ CH], 1.33 (s, 3H, CH₃C), 1.43 (s, 3H, CH₃C), 1.51 [s, 9H, (CH₃)₃C], 1.65 [sept., J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, <u>CH(CH₃)₂]</u>, 3.83 (dd, J = 6.5 and 7.9 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 3.99 (pseudo t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.42 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.86 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, H-1'), 6.76 (s, 1H, H-5), 8.25 (brs, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 10.25–10.35 [Si-(CH₃)₂], 18.7–18.8, 20.35–20.5 (4CH₃ thexyle), 25.2 [Si-C(CH₃)₂], 25.45– 26.75 [C(CH₃)₂], 28.3 [C(CH₃)₃], 34.15 [CH(CH₃)₂], 65.3 (C-3'), 71.3 (C-2'), 78.55 (C-1'), 82.75 [C(CH₃)₃], 109.2 [C(CH₃)₂], 109.4 (C-5), 152.2 (C-4), 159.2 (C-2); IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1723; UV (ethanol, λ_{nm} [ϵ]) 259 (5700); Mass m/z (CI, t° = 180°C): 473, 417, 373; HRMS (CI, isobutane) m/z (MH⁺) calcd for C₂₂H₄₁N₂O₅SSi: 473.2505, found 473.2517.

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Received in the Netherlands April 12, 2001