

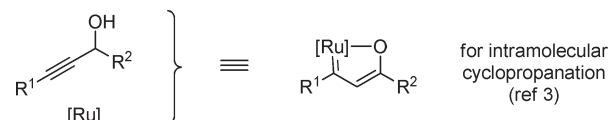
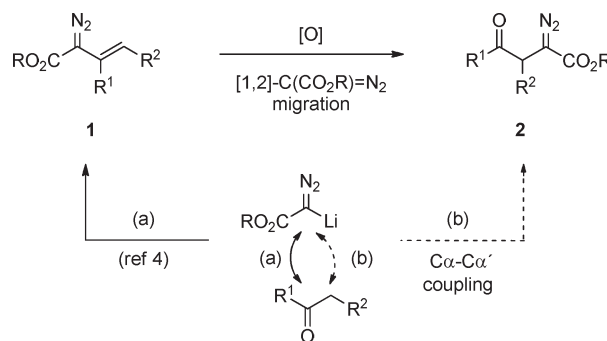
Direct Access to β -Oxodiazo Compounds by Copper(II)-Catalyzed Oxidative Rearrangement of Stabilized Vinyl Diazo Derivatives

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The copper(II)-catalyzed reaction of alkenyldiazo compounds with iodosylbenzene leading to β -oxodiazo derivatives is reported. This process occurs via an unprecedented 1,2-shift of the diazoacetate function. A selection of the synthetic applications of a representative member of this new class of functionalized diazo derivatives in the regioselective synthesis of substituted 1,4-dicarbonyl compounds is also reported.

Figure 1. Propargyl alcohols as β -oxocarbene precursors.Figure 2. Formal $C\alpha-C\alpha'$ coupling approach to β -oxodiazo derivatives **2**.

Past decades have witnessed the great impact of transition metal carbene intermediates in synthetic chemistry. While these metal species have been proposed as active intermediates in numerous catalytic cycles, direct precursors for their generation are rather scarce. In this regard, simple and unsaturated α -diazo carbonyl derivatives continue to be, after their discovery more than a century ago, the most valuable systems providing a vast array of transformations via their decomposition with transition metal catalysts.¹ In sharp contrast, routes to diazo compounds with remote functionalization are scarcely found.² In particular, the β -oxodiazo system remains unknown. An isolated contribution has been reported by Trost et al. who found that propargylic alcohols behave as β -oxocarbene precursors for the Ru-catalyzed intramolecular cyclopropanation reaction (Figure 1).³

Herein, we report that the treatment of vinyl diazo carbonyl compounds **1** with iodosylbenzene in the presence of a copper(II) catalyst represents a simple and general access to yet inaccessible γ -oxo- α -diazo carbonyl compounds **2** (Figure 2). This process comprises some significant features: (i) no oxidation of the diazo function of **1** and/or **2** occurs; (ii) unprecedented 1,2-migration of the $C(EWG)=N_2$ group takes place; (iii) as the alkenyldiazo compounds **1** are usually made by nucleophilic addition of lithium diazoacetate esters to carbonyls followed by dehydration,⁴ the overall process can be seen as a formal two-step $C\alpha-C\alpha'$ coupling of a diazo carbonyl and a carbonyl.

According to our previous finding on the reactivity of vinyl diazoacetate esters through the vinyl moiety⁵ we have selected iodosylbenzene as the electrophilic oxygen source. We found that stirring a mixture of compounds **1**, iodosylbenzene (1 equiv), and copper(II) triflate (5 mol %) in acetonitrile at room temperature led to the complete disappearance of the starting diazo compound after 5–10 min (TLC, 5:1 hexane/ethyl acetate). Purification by column chromatography (SiO₂, 5:1 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded 4-oxodiazoacetates **2** in moderate to high isolated yield (43–92%) (Table 1).⁶ In relation with the structure of the alkenyl moiety of the diazo substrate, some points are remarkable: (i) the

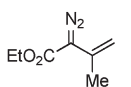
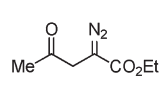
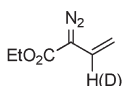
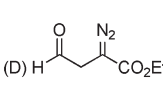
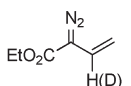
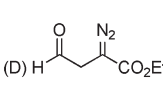
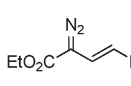
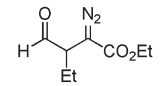
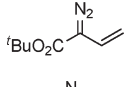
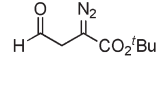
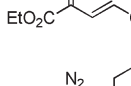
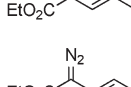
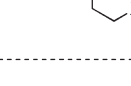
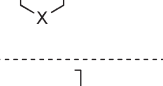
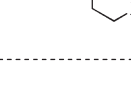
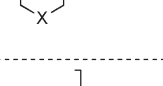
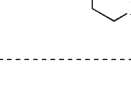
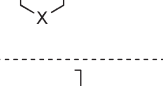
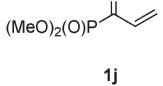
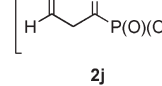
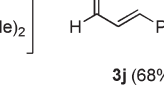
process is more efficient for $C\alpha$ -substituted (compound **1a**) than for unsubstituted or β -substituted diazo derivatives (compounds **1b,c**), whereas β -ethoxycarbonyl and β,β -disubstituted diazo compounds **1e,f** remain unaltered under the reaction conditions; (ii) carbocyclic and heterocyclic diazo compounds give the adducts **2g–i** in 50–66% yield. The oxidation of the diazophosphonate **1j** does not yield the expected oxodiazo derivative **2j**, but β -H elimination takes place instantaneously affording dimethyl (1E)-3-oxoprop-1-enylphosphonate **3j** in 68% yield.

Interestingly, the ketal protected diazo derivatives became available in a straightforward manner by using the corresponding alcohol as the solvent (Table 2).⁷ Thus, stirring a mixture of ethyl 2-diazo-3-methylbut-3-enoate **1a** ($R^1 = \text{Me}$; $EWG = \text{COOEt}$), iodosylbenzene (1 equiv), and copper(II) triflate (5 mol %) in methanol (or methanol- D_4) afforded ethyl 2-diazo-4,4-dimethoxypentanoate **4a** in 98% isolated yield (**4a-D₆**; 95%). In a similar manner, ethyl, isopropyl, and allyl ketals **4b,c,d** are also formed in satisfactory yields. On the other hand, ethyl 2-diazo-3-phenylbut-3-enoates **1b/1b-D₁** ($R^1 = \text{H/D}$; $EWG = \text{COOEt}$) and ethyl 2-diazo-3-phenylbut-3-enoate **1k** ($R^1 = \text{Ph}$; $EWG = \text{COOEt}$) afforded the methyl ketals **4e/4e-D₁** and **4f** in acceptable yields.

Received: September 23, 2011

Published: October 17, 2011

Table 1. Copper(II)-Catalyzed Synthesis of β -Oxodiazo-compounds 2 from Vinyl diazoacetates 1 and Iodosylbenzene

$\text{EWG}-\text{C}(\text{N}_2)=\text{CH}-\text{R}^1 + \text{Ph-I}=\text{O} \xrightarrow[\text{CH}_3\text{CN, RT}]{\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2 (5 \text{ mol}\%)}$		$\text{R}^1-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{CH}(\text{N}_2)-\text{R}^2$		
1		2		
Substrate 1		Product 2		Yield ^a
	1a		2a	92%
	1b-H		2b-H	85%
	1b-D1		2b-D1	75%
	1c		2c	58%
	1d		2d	43%
	1e	N/R		—
	1f	N/R		—
	1g (X = CH ₂)		2g	66%
	1h (X = O)		2h	52%
	1i (X = N-BOC)		2i	50%
	1j		2j	
			3j (68%)	

^aThe reported yields are those of the products isolated after column chromatography.

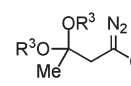
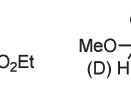
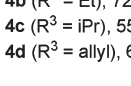
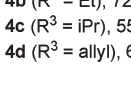
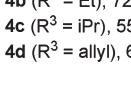
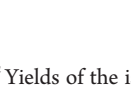
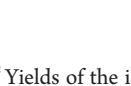
Diazo derivatives with other stabilizing groups, like acetyl and phosphonate, furnished compounds **4g,h** in 64–66% yield, thus providing a greater versatility for this transformation.

A mechanistic proposal for the formation of diazo compounds **2** from vinyl diazoacetates **1** is outlined in Scheme 1. Initial nucleophilic attack of the C- β of **1** to the electrophilic species **I**, formed by coordination of iodosylbenzene and Cu(II),⁹ would form the intermediate **II** which would cyclize to the oxonium species **III**. Then, reductive elimination of PhI and Cu(II) accompanied by the selective pinacol-like migration of the C(EWG)=N₂ moiety would complete the formation of diazo compounds **2**.

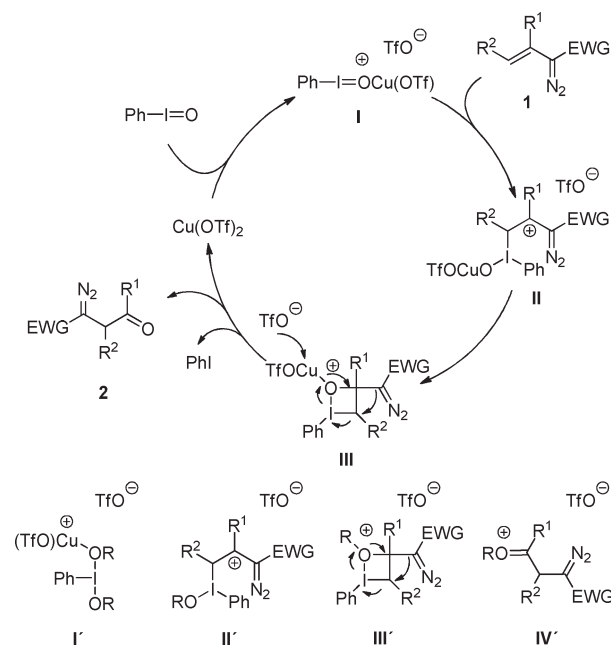
A similar mechanism would account for the alcoholysis of **1** leading to ketal derivatives **4**. In this case, the participation of intermediates **I'**–**IV'** are thought to be involved in the process.¹⁰ Based on the observed influence of substituents R¹, R², the formation of **II** (**II'**) is proposed to be the rate-determining step.¹¹

Preliminary studies on the potential application of these functionalized diazo compounds were undertaken using compound

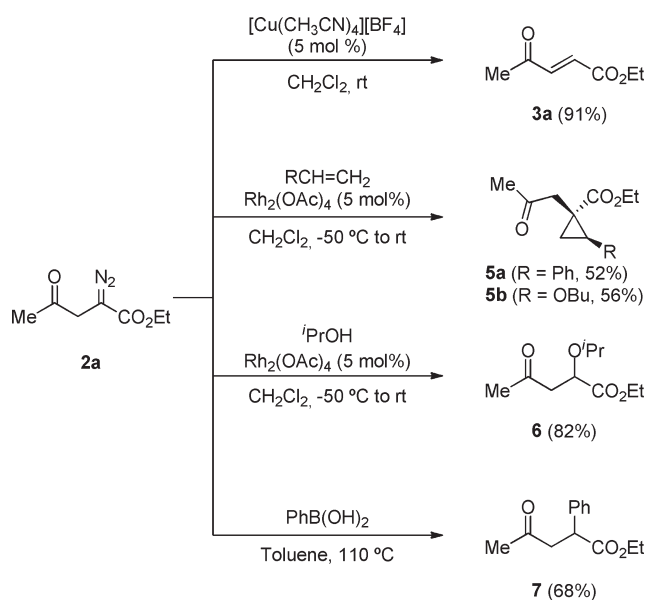
Table 2. Copper(II)-Catalyzed Synthesis of β,β -Dialkoxy-diazo Compounds 4 from Vinyl diazo Compounds 1 and Iodosylbenzene^a

$\text{EWG}-\text{C}(\text{N}_2)=\text{CH}-\text{R}^1 + \text{Ph-I}=\text{O} \xrightarrow[\text{R}^3\text{OH, RT}]{\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2 (5 \text{ mol}\%)}$		$\text{R}^3\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{OR}^3)_2-\text{CH}(\text{N}_2)-\text{R}^2$		
1		4		
			4a	98%
			4e	55%
			4f	60%
			4b-D1, 62%	
			4c	72%
			4d	55%
			4g	61%
			4h	66%

^a Yields of the isolated products after column chromatography.

Scheme 1. Mechanistic Hypothesis for the Formation of Diazo Compounds 2 and 4 from Vinyl diazo Compounds 1 and Iodosylbenzene

2a as the model substrate. It must be noted that compounds **2** would give access to 1,4-dicarbonyl compounds with substitution/functionalization at a predefined α -position.¹² In Scheme 2 some C–C and C–O bond-forming reactions of the diazo functionality are illustrated. First, the [Cu(MeCN)₄][BF₄]-catalyzed β -H elimination of **2a** afforded the alkene **3a** with complete *E*-stereoselectivity (see also compound **3j** in Table 1).^{13,14} The cyclopropanation reaction toward styrene and butylvinyl ether was accomplished with the simplest rhodium(II) catalyst, Rh₂(OAc)₄, to provide functionalized cyclopropanes **5a,b** in moderate yields and complete *trans*-stereoselectivity.¹⁵ On the other hand, the Rh₂(OAc)₄-catalyzed O–H insertion reaction of

Scheme 2. Representative Synthetic Applications of Diazo Compound 2a^a

^a The reported yields are those of the isolated products after purification by column chromatography.

isopropanol led efficiently to the γ -oxo- α -isopropoxy-pentanoate ester 6.¹⁶ Interestingly, the metal-free arylation allowed the selective creation of a C–C bond at the diazo function giving rise to 7 in a synthetically useful yield.¹⁷

In summary, we have developed a convenient Cu(II)-catalyzed synthesis of novel β -oxodiazo compounds and their ketal-protected derivatives from vinyl diazo compounds and iodosylbenzene via an unprecedented oxidation/1,2-shift of the diazoacetate function. The easy access to this new building block featuring two significant β -functionalities (carbonyl and diazo groups) will likely be useful in designing new synthetic methodologies. Thus, fundamental diazo transformations (β -H elimination, cyclopropanation, O–H insertion, reductive arylation) work well allowing for the regioselective preparation of an array of 1,4-dicarbonyl derivatives with hetero- and carbosubstitution at a specific α -position.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information. Full experimental details and spectral data for all the products. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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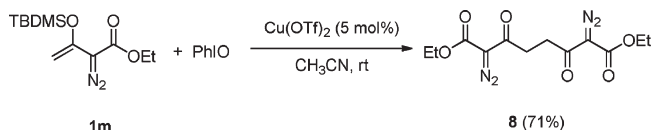
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■ ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This paper is dedicated to Professor Gerhard Erker on the occasion of his 65th birthday. We are grateful to the Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación of Spain (MICINN) (Grant CTQ2010-20517-C02-01). G.L. and L.R. thank the MICINN and European Union (Fondo Social Europeo) for predoctoral fellowships.

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