DEALUMINOXYLATION OF ALUMINUM ALLYL OR BENZYL ALKOXIDES AND DEOXYGENATION OF ALLYL ETHERS BY LITHIUM ALUMINUM HYDRIDE IN THE PRESENCE OF TITANIUM CATALYST

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Various aluminum allyl and benzyl alkoxides and allyl ethers undergo hydrogenolysis by LiAlH_4 in the presence of a catalytic amount of TiCl_4 or Cp_2TiCl_2 . Thus, the present reaction provides a convenient method for replacing oxygen-containing functional groups at the allylic or benzylic position by hydrogen.

In the course of our studies on the titanium compound-catalyzed hydroalumination reactions of olefins,¹ it was found that allyl alcohol reacted with LiAlH_4 in the presence of titanium compounds to afford a considerable amount of deoxygenated products.² A study to clarify the generality of this reaction revealed that various allyl and benzyl alkoxides undergo the hydrogenolysis reaction readily, leading to the corresponding deoxygenated products.



Addition of a catalytic amount of Cp_2TiCl_2 to a reaction mixture of a substrate and excess LiAlH_4 in THF and stirring of the mixture at the designated temperature followed by hydrolysis gave the hydrogenolysis products as shown in Table 1. It is apparent that the present reaction is a new type of dealuminoxylation reaction of aluminum allyl or benzyl alkoxides.³ Thus, compounds which have oxygen-containing groups at the allylic or benzylic position afford the corresponding deoxygenated products. TiCl₄ also shows catalytic activity, but its activity and selectivity were far lower.

Several of the examples which illustrate the applications of these reactions in organic synthesis are worthy of special comment. In the case of substrates with

terminal double bonds, reduction of the terminal bond took place simultaneously (entrys 1,4, and 10). These results indicate that hydroalumination of the terminal double bond also occurred, and thus, deoxygenation and introduction of new functional groups to these substrates in a one-pot process was found possible. In a typical sequence, 1-bromohexane was obtained in 62% yield from 1-hexen-3-ol by treatment with bromine after deoxygenation.



Although in the case of sterically hindered allyl alcohols such as geraniol or nerol neither reduction of the double bond nor allylic double bond migration took place, a significant amount of the double bond migration product was detected for 1-hexen-3-ol. Similarly, the production of hexane from 2-hexen-1-ol should be due to initial formation of 1-hexene via allylic migration and hydroalumination of the terminal double bond.

Titanium compounds have also been found to be effective catalysts for hydrogenolysis of allyl ethers by LiAlH_4 . Although some transition metal compounds such as NiCl_2 , CoCl_2 and CuCl were reported to be efficient catalysts for hydrogenolysis of allyl aryl ethers by LiAlH_4 ,¹⁰ titanium compounds also catalyzed the hydrogenolysis reaction of alkyl allyl ethers as shown in Table 2. In this case TiCl₄ shows almost equal catalytic activity to Cp_2TiCl_2 .

Although detailed understanding of the reaction mechanism must await further study, low valent titanium compounds may play an important role in these reactions, as it has been shown that low valent titanium compounds are the effective deoxygenating reagents.^{6,11}

Entry	Substrate	Reaction conditions ^a		Yield of	
	R in R-O-CH ₂ CH=CH ₂	Molar ratio	Catalyst	product, ROH ^b	
	2 2	Substrate/LiAlH ₄		8	
1	с ₆ н ₅	3.6	Cp ₂ TiCl ₂	50	
2		1.0	Cp ₂ TiCl ₂	92	
3		1.0	TiCl ₄	86	
4	^C 6 ^H 13	1.0	Cp2TiCl2	84	
5	CH (CH ₃) CH ₂ CH ₃	1.0	Cp ₂ TiCl ₂	63	
6	5 2 5	1.0	TiCl	71	
7	с(сн ₃) ₂ сн ₂ сн ₃	1.0	TiCl ₄	49	

TABLE 2

^a10.5 mmol of the substrate and 0.5 mmol of the catalyst in 40 ml of THF. Temp; room temp. Time; 8 h. ^bGLC analysis.

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Entry	Substrate	Reaction conditions ^a	Product (yield, %) ^b
1	\sim	A	(71) (15)
2	ОН	А	(15) (57) ^d
3	CHO CHO C	A	(13) (57) ^d
4	Ph	А	Ph (79)
5	Сон	A	(85) ^e
6	Стон	А	(78) ^e
7	сн _г он	В	CH3 (81)
8	CH0	В	СН3 (78)
9	ÇOOH	С	СH ₃ (61)
10	ØH √	С	رقا) (61)
11	COCH3	В	С ^{Н₂CH₃ (58)}
12	⊘-§-⊘	B C	\bigcirc CH ₂ \bigcirc (26) (49)
13	(O) ch	С	OCH ₃ (59)
14		С	() (74) ^f

TABLE 1

^aA: 13 mmol of the substrate, 26 mmol of LiAlH_4 , and 0.6 mmol of Cp_2TiCl_2 in 40 ml of THF, at -20°C for 3 h followed then at room temperature overnight. B: 7 mmol of the substrate, 21 mmol of LiAlH_4 , and 0.6 mmol of Cp_2TiCl_2 in 40 ml of THF, at boiling point of THF for 6 h. C: 7 mmol of the substrate, 42 mmol of LiAlH_4 , and 0.6 mmol of Cp_2TiCl_2 in 40 ml of THF, at boiling point of THF for 6 h. ^bGLC analysis. ^ctrans/cis = 95/5. ^dtrans/cis = 90/10. ^eIdentified by comparison of GLC and ¹H NMR with the authentic samples prepared by Corey's method⁴; no trans-cis isomerization was observed. ^fIsolated yield.

References and Notes

- F. Sato, "Fundamental Reserch in Homogeneous Catalysis," vol. 2, Y. Ishii and M. Tsutsui (Eds.), Plenum, New York, 1978, p 81.
- 2. Allyl alcohols and ethers were hydroaluminated by LiAlH₄ in the presence of zirconium catalyst, see our preceding paper.
- 3. Deoxygenation of allyl and benzyl alcohols with LiAlH₄ is usually carried out by converting the hydroxy function into a suitable leaving group such as sulfate monoester.⁴ Direct deoxygenation of allyl alcohols using mixed hydride reagents such as LiAlH₄-AlCl₃,⁵ or LiAlH₄-TiCl₄,⁶ has been reported. Hydrogenolysis of benzyl alkoxides having an electron donating group directly attached to the nucleus by LiAlH₄,⁷ LiAlH₄-AlCl₃,⁸ or NaAlH₂(OC₂H₄OCH₃)⁹ has been reported. However, benzyl alkoxide itself was not reduced to toluene by these reagents.
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- 11. Low-valent titanium compounds prepared by reduction of Cp₂TiCl₂, ¹²TiCl₄^{6, 13} or TiCl₃¹⁴ with proper reducing agents have been known to be effective for deoxygenation of oxygen-containing substances.
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(Received October 27, 1979)