

# Thiocarbonyl Surrogate via Combination of Sulfur and Chloroform for Thiocarbamide and Oxazolidinethione Construction

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**(5)** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** An efficient and practical thiocarbonyl surrogate via combination of sulfur and chloroform has been developed. A variety of thiocarbamides and oxazolidinethiones have been established, including chiral thiourea catalysts and chiral oxazolidinethione auxiliaries with high selectivity. Meanwhile, pesticides Diafenthiuron (an acaricide), ANTU (a rodenticide), and Chloromethiuron (an insecticide) were practically synthesized through this method in gram scale. Dicholorocarbene, as the key intermediate, was further confirmed via a carbene-trapping control experiment.



T hiocarbamides and oxazolidinethiones are of great importance due to their unique thiocarbonyl motif.<sup>1</sup> Thiocarbamides are extensively studied in medicinal chemistry,<sup>2</sup> stemming from their selective biological activities such as clinically applied hyperthyroidism drug Propylthiouracil/Carbimazole,<sup>2a</sup> and sedative hypnotics drug Thiopental (Figure 1).<sup>2b</sup>



Figure 1. Representative thiocarbamides and oxazolidinethiones.

Meanwhile, thiocarbamide also played an important role in pesticide chemistry<sup>3</sup> such as the acaricide Diafenthiuron,<sup>3d,e</sup> the rodenticide ANTU,<sup>3a,b</sup> and the insecticide Chloromethiuron.<sup>3c</sup> Furthermore, optically active thiocarbamides and oxazolidine-thiones, which serve as a crux in asymmetric synthesis, have been developed as a chiral thiourea catalyst<sup>4</sup> and chiral oxazolidine-thione auxiliary.<sup>5</sup> In addition, they were widely applied for the synthesis of significant sulfur-containing heterocycles<sup>6</sup> such as aminobenzothiazole,<sup>6c</sup> thiazoline,<sup>6d</sup> and thiazolidinone,<sup>6d</sup> whose diverse biological activities promoted them as privileged scaffolds in drug discovery.

Accordingly, numerous procedures<sup>7</sup> have been developed for the synthesis of thiocarbamides and oxazolidinethiones. However, these reported methods scarcely avoid the utilization of volatile and flammable carbon disulfide,<sup>7j</sup> toxic and corrosive thiophosgene,<sup>7c</sup> or their derivates<sup>7d</sup> as starting materials (Scheme 1a). Alternatively, Lawesson reagents<sup>7e</sup> and  $P_2S_5^{7f}$  were other choices for transforming the carbonyl to thiocarbonyl with the defect of low economy and odor. Therefore, a practical and environment-friendly process for thiocarbamide and oxazolidinethione construction is highly desirable but still remains a challenge in organic synthesis. Based on continuous study on



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organic sulfur chemistry,8 development of a thiocarbonyl surrogate is one of our goals.9 Construction of a thiocarbonyl group was orientated to the establishment of a carbon-sulfur double bond. We envisioned this target could be achieved through the combination of a single carbon source and sulfur source. Chloroform and elemental sulfur, which are a potential single carbon source<sup>10,11</sup> and nature-abundant sulfur source<sup>12</sup> respectively, could be candidates in the establishment of the thiocarbonyl group (Scheme 1b). Subsequently, two possibilities were followed: (1) Dicholorocarbene stemming from chloroform combined with sulfur directly to form a carbon-sulfur bond.<sup>13</sup> (2) Dicholorocarbene was effected with one amine affording isocyanide, followed by sulfur for isothiocyanate, which was captured by another amine.<sup>14</sup> Herein, we report an efficient and practical thiocarbonyl surrogate via combination of sulfur and chloroform for thiocarbamide and oxazolidinethione construction (Scheme 1c).

We commenced our studies by subjecting 3,5-di(trifluoromethyl)aniline, chloroform, and potassium *tert*-butoxide in acetonitrile at 55 °C for 2 h, followed by addition of sulfur and phenethylamine affording product 3k in 36% isolated yield (Table 1, entry 1). When the reaction solvent was altered to a



<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: It was carried out on a 0.2 mmol scale. **1a** (*x* mmol), base (1.2 mmol), and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mmol) were stirred in solvent (0.8 mL) at 55 °C for 2 h, then **2a** (*y* mmol),  $S_8$  (0.6 mmol), and base (0.4 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture, and the reaction continued at this temperature. <sup>*b*</sup>Isolated yields. <sup>*c*</sup>3 h. <sup>*d*</sup>4 h. <sup>*e*</sup>6 h (TEA = triethylamine).

mixture of *tert*-butyl alcohol/1,4-dioxane, **3k** could be afforded in 59% yield with cleaner thin-layer chromatography (Table 1, entries 2–4). However, only a trace amount of the desired product could be detected in water (Table 1, entry 5). Notably, no reaction was detected with potassium carbonate or trimethylamine as the base, which were probably unable to afford carbene from chloroform (Table 1, entries 6–7). A 51% yield of **3k** could be afforded with potassium hydroxide (Table 1, entry 8). Delightedly, the yield was further improved to 78% via adjusting the ratio of two different amines (**1a**/**2a**) to 2/1 (Table 1, entries 9–11). Finally, the optimized conditions were achieved when the

reaction time was extended to 4 h with an 82% isolated yield (Table 1, entries 12-14).

Based on the optimized conditions, an intermolecular thiocarbamide library was established, as shown in Table 2.

## Table 2. Intermolecular Thiocarbamide Library<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Rreaction conditions: 1 (0.4 mmol), <sup>*b*</sup>BuOK (1.2 mmol), and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) in <sup>*b*</sup>BuOH/1,4-dioxane (0.4/0.4 mL) were stirred at 55 °C for 3–4 h, then S<sub>8</sub> (0.6 mmol), <sup>*b*</sup>BuOK (0.4 mmol), and 2 (0.2 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture, and the reaction continued at this temperature for 6–15 h. Isolated yields. <sup>*b*</sup>No <sup>*b*</sup>BuOK (0.4 mmol) was added. <sup>*c*</sup>KOH (1.2 mmol) was used instead of <sup>*b*</sup>BuOK (1.2 mmol). <sup>*d*</sup>The amounts of reagents were doubled except for (1S,2S)-(+)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane in <sup>*b*</sup>BuOH/1,4-dioxane (0.5/0.5 mL).

Not only aniline (3a) and phenethylamine (3d) but also sterically hindered cyclohexylamine (3b) and *tert*-butylamine (3c) could afford the corresponding thiocarbamides with morpholine in good to excellent yields. Furthermore, the combination of various aryl- and aryl amines (3e-3g), aryland alkyl amines (3h-3k), and alkyl- and alkyl amines (3l-3p)could be efficiently transformed to the desired products in moderate to excellent yields. Notably, the amine with an allylic group, which was prone to react with carbene, could be tolerated in this transformation (3n). Moreover, the amines containing an unprotected hydroxyl (3m, and 3o), indolyl (3l), and cyclopropyl (3p) group could afford products as well.

With great compatibility, the chiral thiourea catalyst library was consequently established. 3,5-Di(trifluoromethyl)aniline could be assembled with both optically pure (R)-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)ethanamine and (R)-(+)-1-phenylethylamine to afford the desired products (3q-3r), which were highly important catalysts as a hydrogen bond donor<sup>4h</sup> in an asymmetrically catalytic reaction. Delightedly, the enantiomeric excess of the initial materials were completely maintained even in the presence of potassium tert-butoxide (detection by HPLC; see Supporting Information). Meanwhile, optical pure (1S, 2R)-(-)-cis-1-amino-2-indanol and (S)-(+)-2-phenylglycinol were chosen as substrates to afford chiral thiourea derivatives (3s-3t), which could be used as the bifunctional chiral catalysts with an unprotected hydroxyl group.<sup>4d</sup> Since rigid frame (1S, 2S)-(+)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane was widely applied to the construction of chiral thiourea catalyst, the corresponding product  $(3u)^{4e}$  was also synthesized without loss of enantioselectivity through this method in 83% yield. Notably, chiral tertiary amine was efficiently introduced into a thiourea skeleton to afford other bifunctional chiral catalysts (3v-3w).<sup>4a</sup> Amazingly, chiral ferrocene  $(3x)^{4e}$  and natural quinolone  $(3y)^{4a}$  skeletons were both compatible in the system.

An intramolecular thiocarbamide and oxazolidinethione library was further established, as shown in Table 3. This process





<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: 4 (0.3 mmol), S<sub>8</sub> (0.9 mmol), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mmol), and <sup>*b*</sup>BuOK (1.35 mmol) in 2-ethoxyethanol/1,4-dioxane (0.5/0.5 mL) were added to CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mmol, 10.0 equiv) dropwise at 0 °C, and then the reaction mixture was heated to 50 °C for 8–16 h. Isolated yields. <sup>*b*</sup>S<sub>8</sub> (1.5 mmol) and <sup>*b*</sup>BuOK (1.8 mmol) were used.

was successfully applied to synthesis of optically pure oxazolidinethione derivatives from various chiral amino alcohols (5a-5h), which were widely used as an excellent chiral auxiliary for asymmetric synthesis.<sup>5</sup> The structure of compound (5g) was further confirmed through X-ray crystallographic analysis.<sup>15</sup> Fortunately, the *ee* values of the representative products (5a-5b) were retained in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide.

Moreover, various intramolecular thiocarbamides (5j-5p) could also be obtained from the corresponding amines. Importantly, key intermediates (5n-5o) for pharmaceuticals such as Omeprazole and Lansoprazole were also afforded.<sup>16</sup>

Afterward, three significant thiocarbonyl-containing pesticides were efficiently synthesized via commercially available amines as starting materials in a one-pot procedure (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2. Application of Gram-Scale Synthesis of Pesticides



Chloromethiuron (cas: 28217-97-2) as an insecticide was afforded on the 10 mmol scale in excellent yield (93%, 2.1 g) with 4-chloro-2-methylaniline and a 33% aqueous solution of dimethylamine as starting materials. ANTU (cas: 86-88-4) as a rodenticide could be highly efficiently achieved in 84% (1.7 g) isolated yield on the 10 mmol scale with a 25-28% aqueous solution of ammonia. Diafenthiuron (cas: 80060-09-9) with a high resistance space structure, which serves as widely used acaricide, was obtained in 52% isolated yield by using sterically hindered 2,6-diisopropyl-4-phenoxyaniline and *tert*-butylamine.

To gain mechanistic insight into this protocol, a carbene trapping experiment was introduced with activated cyclohexenylbenzene, in which 7,7-dichloro-1-phenylbicyclo[4.1.0]heptane 7a was obtained in 32% isolated yield (Scheme 3, eq 1). *p*-

Scheme 3. Control Experiment



Toluidine was subjected with  $S_8$  and chloroform under the given conditions without isothiocyanate 7b being detected, which indicated that thiophosgene was not formed in the system (Scheme 3, eq 2). Furthermore, the 1-isocyano-4-methylbenzene 7c was obtained in 29% isolated yield without addition of  $S_8$ , which showed that isocyanide might be the key intermediate during this process. Then, 7c was subjected to the standard conditions without chloroform affording a 34% isolated yield of

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isothiocyanate 7**d**, which demonstrated that isothiocyanate could be formed in the reaction (Scheme 3, eq 3).

In summary, we have developed an efficient and practical thiocarbonyl surrogate for the construction of various thiocarbamides and oxazolidinethiones via combination of sulfur and chloroform. Moreover, the procedure was successfully applied for the establishment of chiral thiourea catalysts, chiral oxazolidinethione auxiliaries, and a commercial pesticides library. Further studies on other thiocarbonyl surrogates are ongoing in our laboratory.

### ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **S** Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.7b00819.

Experimental procedures, NMR spectral, X-ray, and analytical data for all new compounds (PDF) Crystallographic data (CIF)

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Notes

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