

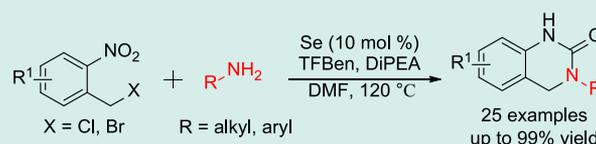
Selenium-Catalyzed Carbonylative Synthesis of 3,4-Dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-one Derivatives with TFBen as the CO Source

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: An efficient and general carbonylative procedure for the synthesis of 3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-one from 1-(halomethyl)-2-nitrobenzenes and aryl/alkyl amines have been explored. In this approach, to avoid of using toxic CO gas, a solid and stable CO precursor, TFBen (benzene-1,3,5-triyl triformate), was utilized. With elemental selenium as the catalyst, a variety of aryl/alkyl amines has been tolerated well to afford the corresponding 3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-one products in moderate to excellent yields under mild reaction condition.

KEYWORDS: carbonylative procedure, benzene-1,3,5-triyl triformate, elemental selenium, heterocycle synthesis



Quinazolinones are a type of valuable structural scaffold in natural, pharmaceutical, and agrochemical products.¹ As a class of useful heterocycles, quinazolinones represent a wide range of biological activities, including anticancer, anticonvulsant, anti-inflammatory, antihypertensive, and diuretic properties.² As a consequence, numerous synthetic methods have been reported for the preparation of quinazolinones.^{3,4} Typically, the strategies used in the synthesis of quinazolinones mainly rely on the condensation of anthranilic acid and its analogues with imidates or aldehydes.³ Over recent years, transition-metal-catalyzed procedures have also emerged as effective alternatives.⁴ Although some of the methods provide useful approaches for the construction of quinazolinones, some drawbacks, such as high temperature, multiple steps, long reaction times, and poor yields, are still exist. Thus, the development of an efficient and general strategy for the synthesis of quinazolinones is needed.

In recent decades, transition-metal-catalyzed carbonylation reactions have attracted intensive interest from the synthetic community for their wide application in the construction of carbonyl-containing compounds and have drawn attention for their applications in both academic and industrial fields.⁵ In general, CO is used as one of the most important carbon source in carbonylation reactions. However, gaseous CO is toxic, flammable, and odorless and usually requires autoclave equipment. Unfortunately, these properties restrict its application in laboratory use. Thus, a variety of CO surrogates were explored in recent years, such as metal carbonyl complexes,⁶ paraformaldehyde,⁷ formic acid,⁸ formates,⁹ formamides,¹⁰ alcohol,¹¹ CO₂,¹² and others.¹³ On the other hand, transition metals, including palladium, ruthenium, rhodium, and iridium, have been commonly used in these carbonylative transformations. Nevertheless, in addition to the

Table 1. Screening of Reaction Conditions^a

entry	base	solvent	time (h)	yield (%) ^b
1	Et ₃ N	DMF	24	54
2	Et ₃ N	DMSO	24	trace
3	Et ₃ N	1,4-dioxane	24	19
4	Et ₃ N	THF	24	40
5	Et ₃ N	toluene	24	4
6	Et ₃ N	DMF	28	71
7	DBU	DMF	28	trace
8	DiPEA	DMF	28	87
9	NaOH	DMF	28	55
10	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	28	trace
11	KOtBu	DMF	28	6

^aReaction conditions: 1-(chloromethyl)-2-nitrobenzene (1.0 mmol), aniline (1.5 mmol), Se (10 mol %), base (2.0 mmol), TFBen (1.5 mmol), and solvent (2 mL), 120 °C. ^bGC yield with dodecane as the internal standard.

well-established noble metal systems, non-noble metal or metal-free conditions could possibly be more preferred in carbonylation reactions. Herein, we wish to report a selenium-catalyzed carbonylation reaction for the synthesis of 3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-one derivatives with TFBen as the CO source.

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Initially, 1-(chloromethyl)-2-nitrobenzene and aniline were utilized as the model substrates, with selenium as the catalyst, Et₃N as the base, and TFBen as CO precursor in DMF at 120 °C for 24 h. To our delight, a 54% yield of the desired product was obtained (Table 1, entry 1). We next studied the effect of different solvents, including DMSO, 1,4-dioxane, THF, and toluene (Table 1, entries 2–5), DMF was found to be the optimal solvent. Because of the incomplete conversion of the substrates, subsequently, the reaction time was prolonged, and the yield of the target product increased to 71% (Table 1, entry 6). Moreover, various bases were investigated, such as DBU, DiPEA, NaOH, K₂CO₃, and KO^tBu (Table 1, entries 7–11), it is noteworthy an 87% yield of the target product was produced with DiPEA as the base (Table 1, entry 8).

With the best reaction condition in hand, we next studied the substrate scope with a variety of amines (Table 2). Aryl amines with electron-donating group, such as methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl, and trifluoromethoxy group, all afforded the corresponding products in moderate to excellent yields (Table 2, entries 1–9). Notably, those substrates with *ortho*- and *para*-methyl groups resulted in higher yields than meta-substitution, probably due to the electronic effects. Aryl amines bearing halogen groups, including fluoro-, bromo-, and chloro-formed groups also afford the desired products in moderate to excellent yields (Table 2, entries 10–12). Moreover, the influence of alkyl amines has also been studied. Substrates bearing linear groups, such as propyl, butyl moieties, and heptyl groups worked well to produce the target products in moderate to good yields (Table 2, entries 13–15). Alkyl amine with *tert*-butyl group could also give the desired product in good yield (Table 2, entry 16). Substrates containing cyclic groups including cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and 1-adamantyl groups were investigated; the corresponding products were generated in moderate to good yields (Table 2, entries 17–19). Furthermore, 2-methoxyethan-1-amine could also afford the desired product in very good yield (Table 2, entry 20). We also tested 1-(bromomethyl)-2-nitrobenzenes with different aryl/alkyl amines; the reactions were tolerated well to afford the desired products in moderate to good yields (Table 2, entries 21–25).

On the basis of the above results, a proposed reaction mechanism is shown in Scheme 1. CO was initially generated from TFBen promoted by a base, and then reacted with selenium to afford carbonyl selenide (SeCO). At the same time, 1-(halomethyl)-2-nitrobenzenes **1** reacted with aryl/alkyl amines **2** to provide nitroanilines intermediate **I**, followed by a deoxygenation with SeCO to give nitrene intermediates **II**. Subsequently, isocyanate intermediate **III** was formed via the reaction of nitrene intermediates **II** with Se/CO, followed by an intramolecular nucleophilic addition to afford the final product **3**. The formation of CO₂ was also confirmed by bubbling the gas after the reaction into clear Ca(OH)₂ solution.

In conclusion, an efficient and convenient carbonylation reaction for the synthesis of 3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-ones have been established. Through a selenium-catalyzed carbonylation reaction of 1-(halomethyl)-2-nitrobenzenes with aryl/alkyl amines using TFBen as the CO source. A variety of 3,4-dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-one derivatives were generated in moderate to high yields under mild reaction conditions with good substrates toleration.

Table 2. Synthesis of 3,4-Dihydroquinazolin-2(1H)-ones^a

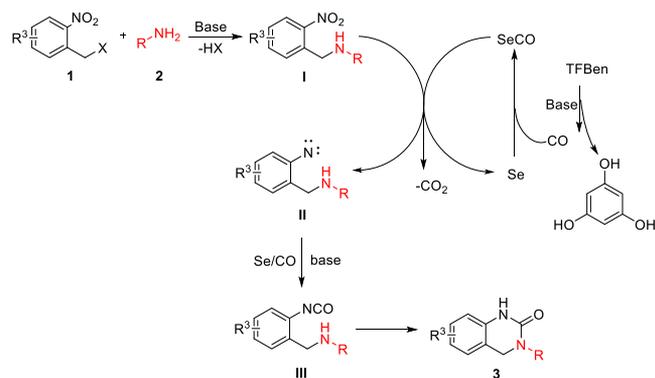
Entry	Nitroarene	Amine	Product	Yield
1				86%
2				89%
3				77%
4				99%
5				81%
6				63%
7				72%
8				93%
9				53%
10				93%
11				95%
12				96%
13		PrNH ₂		54%
14		BuNH ₂		76%
15		1-Heptanamine		70%
16		<i>t</i> BuNH ₂		76%
17				62%

Table 2. continued

Entry	Nitroarene	Amine	Product	Yield
18				75%
19				64%
20				83%
21				66%
22				71%
23				40%
24				36%
25				48%

^aReaction conditions: nitroarene (0.5 mmol), amines (0.75 mmol), Se (10 mol %), DiPEA (1.0 mmol), TFBen (0.75 mmol), DMF (2 mL), 120 °C, 28 h, isolated yield.

Scheme 1. Plausible Reaction Mechanism



EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Selenium (10 mol %), TFBen (0.75 mmol; 2.25 mmol of CO), and 1-(halomethyl)-2-nitrobenzenes (0.5 mmol) were added to a 15 mL tube equipped with a magnetic stirrer, which was then placed under vacuum and refilled with nitrogen three times. Aryl/alkyl amines (0.75 mmol), DMF (2 mL) and DiPEA (1.0 mmol) were added to the reaction tube; then, the tube was sealed, and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 28 h. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was filtered, extracted with ethyl acetate and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/2) to afford the desired product.

Caution: Because of the generation of CO gas from TFBen, special attention should be paid and proper protection should be given during the manipulation and workup process.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acscombsci.9b00090.

General comments, general procedure, analytic data, and NMR spectra (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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