

Rh(II)-Catalyzed Chemoselective Oxidative Amination and Nucleophilic Trapping of *gem*-Dimethyl Alkynyl-Tethered **Sulfamates**

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A Rh(II)-catalyzed chemoselective oxidative amination and nucleophilic trapping of gem-dimethyl sulfamates has been presented. For 2,2-dimethyl-4-arylbut-3-yn-1-yl sulfamates, the reactions underwent a metallonitrene-initiated alkyne oxidation along with nucleophilic trapping of H₂O upon oxidation, giving aroyl group containing heterocycles. For 2,2-dimethyl-4-arylpent-3-yn-1-yl sulfamates, the α iminometal carbene intermediate was trapped by aryl group migration, delivering a styryl group containing heterocycles.

atalytically generated metallocarbenes, primarily obtained \checkmark by metal-catalyzed decomposition of α -diazocarbonyl compounds, have been extensively investigated over the past decades and have demonstrated broad applications in modern organic synthetic chemistry for strategic C-C, C-O, and C-N bond formation through a variety of well-defined reaction mechanisms.¹ Since nitrogen atom is prevalent in biologically and pharmaceutically relevant molecules, much attention has been paid to the development of methodologies for the development of synthetic methods for its incorporation into organic molecules in recent years.² The metallonitrene chemistry would broaden the strategic methods to build structurally complex nitrogen-containing molecules.³ With the pioneering works by Du Bois,⁴ practical conditions involving iodine(III) oxidants for the generation of metallonitrenes now make catalytic C–H amination⁵ and alkene aziridination⁶ general methods for the preparation of nitrogen-containing molecules. While cyclopropenation of alkynes is a well-established method for the preparation of cyclopropenes,⁷ the addition of nitrenes to alkynyl derivatives has rarely been explored.⁸ It has been known that α imino gold carbene intermediates could be generated via addition of iminopyridium ylides onto gold-activated alkynes and followed by elimination of the neutral pyridines.⁹ Moreover, Blakey and co-workers recently developed a new method to generate α -iminometal carbenes through metallonitrene/alkyne metathesis.¹⁰ They showed that α -iminometal carbenes could be generated via Rh-catalyzed metallonitrene-initiated alkyne oxidation, and the α -iminometal carbenes could be terminated in an array of reactions, such as oxygen-ylide formation, [2,3]-Wittig rearrangement, aromatic substitution, and cyclopropanation as well as intermolecular trapping by a variety of allyl ethers (Scheme 1a). With these termination methods of carbene/ alkyne cascade alkyl migration process and on the basis of our ongoing investigation on the chemical transformations of strained small rings, we reported a Rh(II)-catalyzed chemo-



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Scheme 1. Previous Work and This Work



selective oxidative amination and cyclization cascade of 1-(arylethynyl)cycloalkyl)-methyl sulfamates (Scheme 1b). For cyclopropyl or cyclobutyl moiety containing alkynyl sulfamates, the reactions underwent a metallonitrene initiated alkyne oxidation along with cyclopropyl ring expansion or alkoxyl moiety migration to give cyclobutane-fused or methylenecyclo-butane containing heterocycles.¹¹

After the investigation on these cycloalkyl sulfamates, we then simultaneously attempted to examine the corresponding gemdimethyl sulfamates such as 2,2-dimethyl-4-arylbut-3-yn-1-yl

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sulfamates and 2,2-dimethyl-5-arylpent-3-yn-1-yl sulfamates in this transformation. However, we observed totally different results from our previous cycloalkyl sulfamates and Blakey's work. When R = Ar, the α -iminometal carbene intermediate was trapped by water and then oxidized by iodine(III) oxidants to give benzoyl group containing heterocycles. When R = ArCH₂, the α -iminometal carbene intermediate was trapped by aryl migration rather than β -H migration to give a styryl group containing heterocycles (Scheme 1c).¹² Herein, we wish to report these new findings.

First, we utilized the sulfamic ester 1a for the initial examination using $[Rh_2(esp)_2]$ (2.5 mol %) as the catalyst and $PhI(OPiv)_2$ (2.3 equiv) as the oxidant with 4.6 equiv of CaO as a base at room temperature in dichloromethane (DCM) under argon atmosphere. We were pleased to find that the desired product 2a was given in 66% NMR yield within 24 h (Table 1,

Table 1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions^a



entry	cat. (mol %)	oxidant	additive	solvent	yield (%) ^b
1	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$		DCM	66
2	$Rh_2(Oct)_4$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$		DCM	<5
3	$Rh_2(OAc)_4$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$		DCM	<5
4	$Rh_2(OPiv)_4$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$		DCM	<5
5	$Rh_2(TFA)_4$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$		DCM	<5
6	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	PhIO		DCM	<5
7	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OAc)_2$		DCM	<5
8 ^c	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	4 Å MS	DCM	48
9 ^d	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	O ₂	DCM	68
10 ^e	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(1.0)$	DCM	73
11 ^f	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(2.0)$	DCM	80
12 ^g	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(5.0)$	DCM	87 (85) ⁱ
13 ^h	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(10)$	DCM	77
14 ^g	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(5.0)$	THF	<5
15 ^g	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(5.0)$	CH ₃ CN	<5
16 ^g	$Rh_2(esp)_2$	$PhI(OPiv)_2$	$H_2O(5.0)$	toluene	63

^{*a*}Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out using 1a (0.2 mmol), oxidant (0.46 mmol), catalyst (2.5 mol %), CaO (0.92 mmol), and additive in solvent (4.0 mL), rt, 24 h. ^{*b*}The yield was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic data using mesitylene as an internal standard. ^{*c*}50 mg of 4 Å MS was added. ^{*d*}1.0 atm O₂. ^{*e*}1.0 equiv of H₂O was added. ^{*f*}2.0 equiv of H₂O was added. ^{*f*}S.0 equiv of H₂O was added. ^{*h*}10 equiv of H₂O was added. ^{*i*}Isolated yield.

entry 1). This result inspired us to further explore the better conditions for this reaction, and the results are summarized in Table 1. First, we screened various rhodium catalysts such as $[Rh_2(Oct)_4]$, $[Rh_2(OAc)_4]$, $[Rh_2(O_2C'Bu)_4]$, and $[Rh_2(TFA)_4]$ (Table 1, entries 1–5). $[Rh_2(esp)_2]$ was found to be the best one for this cascade reaction. Then, PhI(O₂C'Bu)₂ was identified as the more efficient oxidant than PhI(OAc)₂ and PhIO (Table 1, entries 6 and 7). With the addition of 4 Å MS (50 mg for 0.2 mmol of 1a), 2a could be obtained in 48% yield (Table 1, entry 8). The yield of 2a was 68% under O₂ atmosphere (Table 1, entry 9). Next, different equiv of H₂O was used as the additive for this reaction, and we identified that adding 5.0 equiv of H₂O afforded 2b in 87% NMR yield and 85% isolated yield (Table 1, entries 10–13). The examination of solvent effects revealed that DCM was the best choice (Table 1, entries 14–16).

With the optimal conditions in hand, we next investigated the generality of this reaction using a variety of substrates 1b–1l (Scheme 2). Regardless of whether electron-donating or

Scheme 2. Substrate Scope of $1^{a,b}$



^{*a*}Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out using **1** (0.2 mmol), Phl(OPiv)₂ (0.46 mmol), Rh₂(esp)₂ (2.5 mol %), H₂O (1.0 mmol), and CaO (0.92 mmol) in DCM (4.0 mL), rt, 24 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yields are provided. ^{*c*}No water was added.

electron-withdrawing groups were introduced on the aromatic R group, the reactions proceeded smoothly, affording the desired products 2b-2l in moderate to good yields. The electrondonating group could be a methyl group at the para- or metaposition as well as phenyl group or methoxyl group, affording the corresponding products 2b, 2c, 2d, and 2f in 76, 79, 86, and 80% yields, respectively. Naphthyl moiety was also compatible, giving 2e in 83% yield. The halogen substituents were also tolerated, furnishing the desired products 2g, 2h, and 2i in good yields at room temperature. Substrate 1j with a strongly electronwithdrawing trifluoromethyl group and substrate 1k having an ester moiety could also provide the desired products 2j and 2k in 86 and 84% yields. Furthermore, substrate 1k having a thiophene moiety gave the corresponding product 2k in 56% yield under the standard conditions. With substrate 1m bearing a nitryl group, the reaction gave a complex mixture. For substrates 1n and 10, none of the desired products were obtained. The structure of 2a was further confirmed by X-ray diffraction, and the ORTEP drawing is shown in the Supporting Information.

The further examination of substrates 3 containing an arylmethyl moiety was also conducted. At first, we conducted the reaction of 3a under the same conditions as that of 1, and we were pleased to find that the aryl migration could take place via α iminometal carbene, giving the styryl group containing heterocyclic product 4a in good yield rather than the H₂Otrapping product or H migration product. The structure of 4f was further confirmed by X-ray diffraction. This result indicates the special reaction property of α -iminometal carbene derived from sulfamates with alkyne. We found that using 1.3 equiv of $PhI(O_2C^tBu)_2$ as the oxidant, 2.5 mol % of $[Rh_2(esp)_2]$ as the catalyst, and 2.6 equiv of CaO as a base and carrying out the reaction at room temperature in DCM for 2 h gave the desired product 4a in 87% isolated yield. The substrate scope was also explored. As summarized in Scheme 3, the reactions proceeded smoothly with various substrates 3b-3l, allowing the facile synthesis of product 4 in moderate to good yields. The substrates

Scheme 3. Substrate Scope of $3^{a,b}$



^{*a*}Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out using 3 (0.2 mmol), $Phl(OPiv)_2$ (0.26 mmol), $Rh_2(esp)_2$ (2.5 mol %), and CaO (0.52 mmol) in DCM (4.0 mL), rt, 2 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yields are provided.

bearing electron-withdrawing or electron-donating group on the aromatic ring underwent the cascade cyclization efficiently to deliver the desired products **4b**–**4h** in yields ranging from 83 to 89%. Of note, for substrates **3c** and **3d** with a methyl substituent at the *meta*-position or *ortho*-position, the corresponding products **4c** and **4d** were formed in 83 and 85% yields. Substrates **3i** and **3k** having heteroaromatic moiety were tolerable in this reaction, affording the desired products **4i** and **4k** in 71 and 77% yields, respectively. In addition, for substrate **3l**, in which methyl group was replaced by ethyl group, the reaction could also take place, affording **4l** in 54% yield. However, when both of the two methyl groups were replaced by phenyl groups, such as substrate **3m**, none of the desired product was obtained.

To identify the source of O in product **2**, we conducted the O¹⁸ labeling experiment with the addition of 5.0 equiv of H_2O^{18} into the reaction mixture and found that the obtained product incorporated 51% O¹⁸ content, suggesting that oxygen atom in product **2** was derived from H_2O . For the aryl migration, alkyne bearing a benzyl group could be transformed to allene under the basic condition. To exclude the possible allenic intermediate in the pathway, we synthesized the allenic compound **5** and found that the corresponding cycloaddition product **6** was formed in 75% under the standard conditions rather than the aryl migration product **4**, rendering unlikely the involvement of allenic intermediate (Scheme 4).¹³

On the basis of the previous reports and the control experiments mentioned above, a plausible reaction mechanism has been outlined in Scheme 5 to account for the different reaction outcomes. The oxidation of substrate **1a** or **3a** initiates

Scheme 4. Mechanistic Experiments



Scheme 5. Proposed Reaction Mechanism



the formation of iminoiodinane intermediate **A**, which undergoes exchange with dirhodium catalyst to generate the metallonitrene intermediate **B**. Then intramolecular metallonitrene/alkyne addition cascades afford intermediate **C** or its α -iminometal carbene **D**. The Thorpe–Ingold effect of *gem*-dimethyl groups facilitated the formation of 6-*exo* α -iminometal carbene intermediate **D** and did not favor 7-*endo* cyclization, thereby exclusively affording the six-membered ring products.¹⁰ For substrate **1a** (R = Ph), intermediate **D'** undergoes nucleophilic attack of H₂O to form intermediate **E'**, which furnishes the desired product **2a** upon oxidation with PhI(OPiv)₂. However, in the case of **3a** (R = PhCH₂), the corresponding intermediate **D''** undergoes the aryl group migration through intermediate **E''**.¹⁴ The elimination of Rh catalyst from **E''** gives product **4a**.

In summary, we have disclosed a novel chemoselective oxidative amination and nucleophilic trapping of *gem*-dimethyl sulfamates in the presence of Rh(II) catalyst. For 2,2-dimethyl-4-arylbut-3-yn-1-yl sulfamates, the reactions underwent a metal-lonitrene-initiated alkyne oxidation along with nucleophilic attacking of H₂O to give aroyl group containing heterocycles in moderate to good yields depending on the substituents under mild conditions. For 2,2-dimethyl-4-arylpent-3-yn-1-yl sulfamates, the α -iminometal carbene intermediate was trapped by aryl migration, affording styryl group containing heterocycles in good yields. Further investigations on expanding the scope and applications of this method for the synthesis of diversified nitrogen-containing heterocyclic products are ongoing in our laboratory.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.7b03425.

Experimental procedure and characterization data for all compounds (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 1493128 and 1525668 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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