

Stereoselective Construction of Oxetane by Titanium(IV) Chloride Promoted [2+2] Cycloaddition of Allylsilane to α -Keto Esters

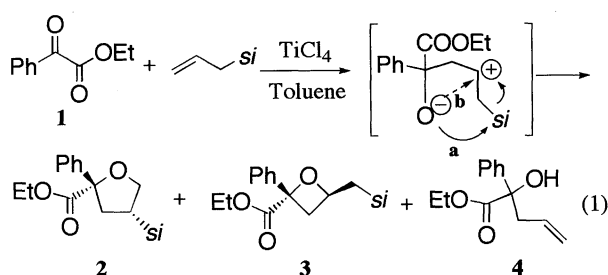
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(Received May 30, 1995)

Titanium(IV) chloride mediated [2+2] cycloaddition of allylsilanes, which possess bulky substituents at the silicon, to α -keto esters underwent highly stereoselectively in toluene to afford oxetane derivatives in excellent yields.

Allylsilanes have attracted much attention as useful synthetic equivalents of 1,3-dipole.¹ Lewis acid promoted [3+2] cycloaddition of allylsilanes to α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds and aldehydes constitute the excellent method for the stereoselective formation of 5-membered carbocycles² and heterocycles,³ respectively. We have previously reported that tin(IV) chloride promoted [3+2] cycloaddition of allylsilanes to an α -keto ester (**1**) afforded silyl-substituted tetrahydrofurans (**2**) with high diastereoselectivity via 1,2-silyl migration (eq. 1, path a).⁴ Furthermore, chiral synthesis of **2** was achieved by means of diastereoselective [3+2] cycloaddition⁵ of allylsilanes to chiral α -keto esters bearing a chiral cyclitol,⁶ which is readily available from L-quebrachitol, as a chiral auxiliary. It should be noted that the Sakurai reaction leading to a homoallyl alcohol (**4**) was suppressed by using bulky substituents at the silicon atom of the allylsilanes, thereby resulting in the preferential formation of the tetrahydrofuran (**2**). If the alkoxide attacked β -silyl carbocation directly in the intermediate (eq. 1, path b), we expected, an oxetane (**3**) should be obtained.⁷ We wish to disclose here that the reaction path could be successfully realized by use of TiCl_4 in toluene to afford **3** in excellent stereoselectivity as well as high yields. This is the first example of the highly stereoselective construction of oxetanes by Lewis acid mediated [2+2] cycloaddition of olefinic compounds and ketones.⁸



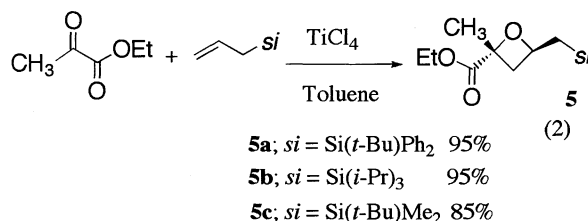
Treatment of **1** with allyl-*t*-butyldiphenylsilane in the presence of tin(IV) chloride in CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature exclusively afforded a [3+2] cycloadduct (**2a**; $\text{si} = \text{Si}(t\text{-Bu})\text{Ph}_2$) as a single diastereomer in 96% yield. Use of titanium(IV) chloride as a Lewis acid changed the reaction course and an oxetane (**3a**; $\text{si} = \text{Si}(t\text{-Bu})\text{Ph}_2$), which is a [2+2] cycloadduct, was obtained in 57% yield along with 23% of **2a**. Use of toluene as a solvent led to the exclusive formation of **3a** in 96% yield as a single diastereomer.^{9,10} Other Lewis acids were not effective.¹¹

Table 1. TiCl_4 catalyzed cycloaddition of **1** to allylsilane^a

Entry	si	Yield of 3 /%	Yield of 4 /%
1	$\text{Si}(t\text{-Bu})\text{Ph}_2$	96	0
2	$\text{Si}(i\text{-Pr})_3$	74	19
3	$\text{Si}(t\text{-Bu})\text{Me}_2$	62	29
4	SiMe_2Ph	0	79
5	SiMe_3	0	90

^aThe reactions were carried out by using 200 mol% of allylsilane and 100 mol% of titanium(IV) chloride in toluene at 0 °C for 10–30 min.

The effect of the substituent on silicon was next examined and the results are shown in Table 1. *t*-Butyldiphenyl, triisopropyl, and *t*-butyldimethyl group substituted allylsilanes worked efficiently as [2+2] counterpart to afford oxetanes (**3**) in good yields (Entries 1–3). With dimethylphenyl- and trimethyl-substituted allylsilanes, however, Sakurai product (**4**) was the sole compound isolated (Entries 4 and 5). It turned out that the bulky substituent on the silicon was essential for the formation of oxetanes, and this tendency is in good accord with that observed in the formation of the tetrahydrofurans.¹²



Titanium(IV) chloride promoted [2+2] cycloaddition with ethyl pyruvate also took place smoothly with allylsilanes to afford oxetanes (**5a-c**) highly stereoselectively as well as high yields as shown in eq. 2.

The present cycloaddition reactions exhibited excellent levels of diastereoselection, producing the oxetanes with de's reaching

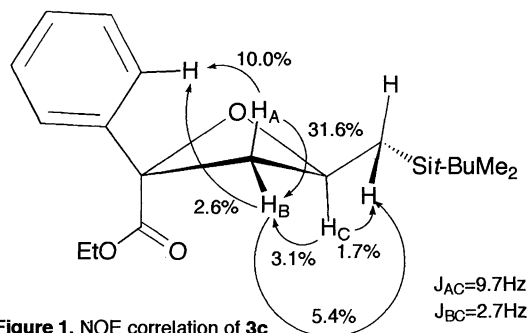


Figure 1. NOE correlation of **3c**

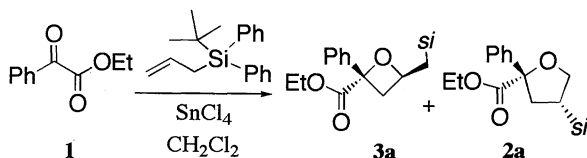


Table 2. Temperature effect of the cycloaddition^a

Entry	Temp. /°C	Yield of 3a /%	Yield of 2a /%
1	0	0	96
2	-45	38	31
3	-78	59	19

^aThe reactions were carried out by using 200 mol% of allylsilane and 100 mol% of tin(IV) chloride in CH₂Cl₂ for 10-30 min.

>96% as determined by ¹H (270 MHz) and ¹³C NMR. The relative stereochemistry of **3c** (si=Si(*t*-Bu)Me₂) was unambiguously determined by multiple NOE study as shown in Figure 1. The relative stereochemistry of other oxetanes was estimated by the analogy.

Tin(IV) chloride mediated cycloaddition showed intriguing temperature effects and the results are shown in Table 2. Treatment of **1** with allyl-*t*-butyldiphenylsilane in the presence of tin(IV) chloride in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature led to the exclusive formation of the [3+2] adduct (**2a**) (Entry 1) as described above. As the reaction temperature was lowered, formation of an oxetane (**3a**) increased, and **3a** was preferentially obtained in 59% yield at -78 °C (Entry 3). The experimental observations suggest that the oxetanes are kinetic products whereas the tetrahydrofurans are thermodynamically controlled.

Although oxetanes¹³ could be prepared photochemically by the Paterno-Büchi Reaction,¹⁴ present titanium(IV) chloride promoted cycloadditions will be a novel method for the stereoselective synthesis of the oxetanes.

We appreciate the partial financial support for this research by a grant from the Saneyoshi Scholarship Foundation.

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- ¹H-NMR (270 MHz), ¹³C-NMR (67.5 MHz), and results of the DEPT experiment of **3a**: ¹H-NMR(CDCl₃) δ=7.62-7.52 (4H, m), 7.42-7.15 (11H, m), 4.61-4.48 (1H, m, O-C-H), 4.14 (2H, q, *J*=7.2 Hz, CH₂CH₃), 2.65 (1H, dd, *J*=10.4, 15.0 Hz), 2.10-1.95 (2H, m, CH₂Si), 1.84 (1H, dd, *J*=15.0, 9.2 Hz), 1.19 (3H, t, *J*=7.2 Hz, CH₂CH₃), and 1.01 (9H, s, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C-NMR(CDCl₃): δ=174.95 (C=O), 142.39, 136.13, 136.03, 133.80, 133.16, 129.34, 129.29, 127.98, 127.69, 127.67, 127.48, 125.08, 75.78 (quaternary), 62.46 (OCH₂CH₃), 57.27 (C-H), 49.51 (CH₂), 27.74, 23.76 (CH₂Si), 18.18 (C(CH₃)₃), and 13.78 (OCH₂CH₃).
- Other solvents gave inferior results, such as diethyl ether (65%) and hexane (42%).
- Neither [2+2] nor [3+2] cycloadducts was obtained by other Lewis acids such as BF₃•OEt₂, AlCl₃, and Et₂AlCl.
- The cycloaddition took place only with allylsilane; neither *t*-butylcrotyldiphenylsilane nor *t*-butylmethallyldiphenylsilane afforded cycloaddition products.
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