

# Synthesis of $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Selenoesters by the Reaction of Acylzirconene Chlorides with $\text{ArSeBr}^\dagger$

*J. Chem. Research (S),*  
1999, 634–635†

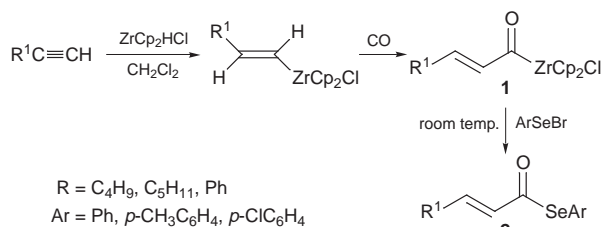
Xian Huang\* and Chun-Gen Liang

Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, (Campus Xixi), 34 Tianmushan Lu, Hangzhou, 310028, P. R. China.

$\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated selenoesters are prepared in good yields by the reaction of  $\text{ArSeBr}$  with acylzirconene chlorides.

Selenoesters are useful synthetic intermediates having been employed,<sup>1</sup> for example, as mild acyltransfer reagents,<sup>2</sup> building blocks for heterocyclic compounds (axaze)<sup>3</sup> and precursors of acyl radicals.<sup>4</sup> Recently we have revealed that the selenocarbonylation addition reaction of selenoesters to nonactivated terminal alkynes under the catalysis of  $\text{CuX}$  produces (*Z*) arylseleno  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones in high selectivity and high yields.<sup>5</sup> In addition, Byeon<sup>6</sup> reported that  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated selenoesters served as dienophiles in Diels–Alder reactions with a variety of 1,3-dienes with reverse regioselectivity. In contrast to their growing utility in organic synthesis, the preparative methods are limited: they have usually been prepared by conventional methods based on the reaction of selenolate anions with carboxylic acids and their derivatives,<sup>7</sup> and other methods, such as alkylation of selenocarboxylates,<sup>8</sup> reaction of carboxylic acid with tributylphosphine,<sup>9</sup>  $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$  mediated carbonylation of diselenides,<sup>10</sup> reaction of esters or aldehydes with  $\text{Bu}_3\text{AlSeBu}^\text{n}$ .<sup>11</sup>

As an extension of our study on the addition of selenoesters to terminal acetylene, we needed a practical and convenient preparative method for selenoesters other than arylselenoester sources. Here we report a new convenient synthesis of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated selenoesters from the reaction of acylzirconene chlorides with the electrophilic selenium bromides ( $\text{ArSeBr}$ ) as shown in Scheme 1.



**Scheme 1**

Acylzirconene chloride derivatives **1**, which are used as an “unmasked” acyl anion for organic synthesis, can be conveniently prepared through sequential treatment of alkynes with zirconene hydrochloride (Schwartz reagent) and carbon monoxide.<sup>12</sup> Here, we have investigated the reactivity of **1** with  $\text{ArSeBr}$ . When **1** was added to  $\text{ArSeBr}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylate selenoesters **2** were obtained immediately (see Table 1).

As the data in Table 1 show this method affords a variety of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated selenoesters in good yield and more importantly the reaction can be performed rapidly at room temperature. The configuration of the products could be confirmed by the analysis of the coupling constant data

in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $J = 16\text{--}17\text{ Hz}$ ). Only the *E* isomer was observed due to the hydrosilylation and insertion reaction of CO with retention of configuration.

In conclusion, a new convenient synthetic method for  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated selenoesters has been developed by the reaction of acylzirconene chlorides with  $\text{ArSeBr}$ . Compared to other reported methods, this method has the advantages of mild reaction conditions, available reagents, high yield and a lower reaction time. Further work on addition of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated selenoesters to terminal acetylenes is in progress.

## Experimental

$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on PMX-60 spectrometer using  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as the solvent with TMS as an internal standard.  $J$  values are given in Hz. IR spectra were obtained on a PE-683 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were obtained on an HP 5989A spectrometer. Melting points were uncorrected. Elemental analyses were conducted using a Yanaco MT-3CHN elemental analyser. All reactions were carried out in pre-dried glassware ( $150^\circ\text{C}$ , 4 h) and cooled under a stream of dry nitrogen.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was distilled over  $\text{CaH}_2$ .

**General Procedure for the Synthesis of 2a–2i.**—To a suspension of  $[\text{Cp}_2\text{ZrHCl}]$  (512 mg, 2.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (8 ml) was added terminal acetylene (2.0 mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at ambient temperature. After the mixture had been stirred under an atmosphere of CO for 2 h the mixture was added to  $\text{ArSeBr}^{13}$  (2.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  via syringe at room temperature and stirred for 10 min. After reaction, the mixture was treated with aqueous  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and extracted with ether ( $3 \times 10\text{ ml}$ ), the combined ethereal extracts were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by preparative TLC on silica gel using  $\text{CCl}_4$  as eluant.

**2a:** Oil.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1709 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.82–1.70 (7H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.25 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.06 (1H, d,  $J$  16 Hz), 6.80 (1H, dt,  $J$  16, 6.5 Hz), 7.15–7.50 (5H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 269 ( $M+1$ , 5%), 111 ( $M-\text{SePh}$ , 100%). Found: C, 58.39; H, 6.07. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{OSe}$ : C, 58.43; H, 6.03%.

**2b:** Oil.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1720 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.80–1.70 (7H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.90–2.30 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.00 (1H, d,  $J$  16.3 Hz), 6.90 (1H, dt,  $J$  16.3, 6.5 Hz), 7.35 (4H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 303 ( $M+1$ , 2%), 111 ( $M-p\text{-ClPhSe}$ , 100%). Found: C, 51.63; H, 4.97. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClOSe}$ : C, 51.76; H, 5.01%.

**Table 1** Synthesis of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated selenoesters **2a–2i**

Products	R <sup>1</sup>	Ar	Yields <sup>a</sup> (%)
<b>2a</b>	$\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$	75
<b>2b</b>	$\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$	$p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$	79
<b>2c</b>	$\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$	$p\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	82
<b>2d</b>	$\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$	83
<b>2e</b>	$\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	$p\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$	76
<b>2f</b>	$\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	$p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$	84
<b>2g</b>	Ph	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$	84
<b>2h</b>	Ph	$p\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$	80
<b>2i</b>	Ph	$p\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$	85

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yields based on  $\text{ArSeBr}$ .

\* To receive any correspondence.

† This is a **Short Paper** as defined in the Instructions for Authors, Section 5.0 [see *J. Chem. Research (S)*, 1999, Issue 1]; there is therefore no corresponding material in *J. Chem. Research (M)*.

**2c:** Oil.  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1700 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.80–1.70 (7H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.87–2.45 (5H, m), 6.10 (1H, d,  $J$  16 Hz), 6.90 (1H, dt,  $J$  16, 6.5 Hz), 7.20 (4H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 283 ( $M+1$ , 1.3%), 111 ( $M-p\text{-CH}_3\text{PhSe}$ , 100%). Found: C, 59.82; H, 6.41. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{OSe}$ : C, 59.79; H, 6.45%.

**2d:** Oil.  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1703 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.67–1.67 (9H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.05 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.04 (1H, d,  $J$  16 Hz), 6.84 (1H, dt,  $J$  16, 6.5 Hz), 7.34 (5H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 283 ( $M+1$ , 5%), 125 ( $M\text{-PhSe}$ , 100%). Found: C, 59.87; H, 6.41. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{OSe}$ : C, 59.79; H, 6.45%.

**2e:** Oil.  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1705 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.67–1.67 (9H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.86–2.45 (5H, m,  $\text{CH}_2 + \text{CH}_3$ ), 6.03 (1H, d,  $J$  16 Hz), 6.87 (1H, dt,  $J$  16, 7.0 Hz), 7.20 (4H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 297 ( $M+1$ , 6.5%), 125 ( $M-p\text{-CH}_3\text{PhSe}$ , 100%). Found: C, 60.86; H, 6.75. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{OSe}$ : C, 61.01; H, 6.83%.

**2f:** Oil.  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1717 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.67–1.67 (9H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.10 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.03 (1H, d,  $J$  16 Hz), 6.87 (1H, dt,  $J$  16, 7.0 Hz), 7.36 (4H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 317 ( $M+1$ , 1.5%), 125 ( $M-p\text{-ClPhSe}$ , 100%). Found: C, 53.13; H, 5.36. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClOSe}$ : C, 53.26; H, 5.43%.

**2g:** Mp 79–81 °C (lit<sup>14</sup> 79–91 °C).  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1700 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.70 (1H, d,  $J$  16 Hz), 7.30–7.73 (11H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + 1\text{H}$ ).

**2h:** Mp 83–85 °C (lit<sup>14</sup> 83–85 °C).  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1709 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.33 (3H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 6.60 (1H, d,  $J$  16.5 Hz), 7.15–7.5 (10H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4 + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + 1\text{H}$ ).

**2i:** Mp 92–94 °C.  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1709 (C=O).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.43 (1H, d,  $J$  16.5 Hz), 7.30–7.70 (10H, m,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4 + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + 1\text{H}$ ). MS(EI)  $m/z$ : 323 ( $M+1$ , 1%), 131 ( $M-p\text{-ClPhSe}$ , 100%). Found: C, 55.91; H, 3.37. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClOSe}$ : C, 56.01; H, 3.45%.

Project 29772007 was supported by the National Nature Science Foundation of China and this work was also supported by The National Nature Science Foundation of Zhejiang Province.

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Received, 28th June 1999; Accepted, 15th July 1999  
Paper E/9/051581