Copper(I) Halide Mediated Tandem 1,4-Aryl Migration–Oxidative Amidyl Radical Cyclisation of Bromosulfonamides

Andrew J. Clark,* David R. Fullaway, Nicholas P. Murphy, Hemal Parekh

Department of Chemistry, University of Warwick, Coventry, West Midlands, CV4 7AL, UK Fax +44(2476)524112; E-mail: a.j.clark@warwick.ac.uk

Received 8 October 2009

Dedicated to Prof. G. Pattenden on his 70th birthday.

Abstract: Reaction of *N*-butyl-*N*-(2-bromo-2-methylpropionyl)arylsulfonamides with CuBr/tripyridylamine leads to amidyl radicals via 1,4-aryl migration with concomitant loss of SO_2 , which can further undergo cyclisation to oxindoles or reduction to amides with the ratio dependent upon the temperature and solvent utilised.

Key words: copper, radical reactions, rearrangement, tandem reactions, sulfonamides

We recently reported that trichloroacetamide¹ **1a** and 2bromo-2-methyl-propionamide² **1b** undergo reaction with copper(I) halides and pentamethyldiethylenetriamine **4** to furnish 2-aryl amides **3a,b** via 1,4-aryl migration. At reflux, minor amounts of competing halide reduction to give **2a,b** were also observed but levels only became significant at room temperature (**2a/3a** = 61:39, **2b/3b** = 53:47, Scheme 1).^{1,2} Aryl transfer from sulfonamides with loss of SO₂ during radical reactions is well established and a range of migration types including 1,4- and 1,5-aryl migrations have been described.³ The majority of these published procedures involve reactions mediated by toxic organostannane reagents under high-dilution conditions.



Scheme 1 Reaction of amides 1a,b with CuX-4

Conventional copper(I)-mediated atom-transfer radical cyclisations of haloacetamides have been thoroughly investigated and a range of ligands (e.g., **4**–**7**) have been reported to facilitate these types of transformations (Figure 1).^{4–8} We previously screened ligands **4** and **7** in the 1,4-aryl transfer of trichloroacetamide **1a** and discovered that ligand **4** was optimal for production of **3a**.¹ In this paper we report the affect of ligand **7** in the 1,4-aryl transfer reaction of the related 2-bromo-2-methyl-propi-

SYNLETT 2010, No. 4, pp 0610–0614 Advanced online publication: 22.12.2009 DOI: 10.1055/s-0029-1219151; Art ID: D28709ST © Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart · New York onamide **1b** at various temperatures and in various solvents (Table 1). We initially reacted compound **1b** with 1.1 equivalents of CuBr and 1.1 equivalents of ligand **7** at room temperature. The reaction was extremely slow due to the insolubility of the CuBr–**7** complex in both toluene (entry 3) and CH₂Cl₂ (entry 1), but when heated to solubilise the complex, two products were isolated, namely the 1,4-aryl rearrangement product **3b** and the oxindole **8b** (entries 2 and 4). The oxindole **8b** was unexpected, but its structure was unambiguously confirmed via the synthesis of an authentic sample and the lack of any sulfur content as determined by elemental analysis.⁹



Figure 1 Common ligands used in copper-mediated ATRC reactions

Contrary to the reaction of 1a with CuBr- 7^2 no reduction to 2b was detected in the NMR spectrum of the crude material (entry 1). Mechanistically 3b and 8b (Scheme 2) are likely to be formed via a 5-exo-ipso substitution of radical 9 (X = H) to give spirocyclohexadienyl radical 10 which upon re-aromatisation and loss of SO₂ furnishes the amidyl radical 11 (X = H).^{10,3h} Radical 11 is particulated between two competing reaction pathways (a bimolecular reduction to give 3b or an intramolecular cyclisation to give 12). Reduction of 11 furnishes the observed 1,4-aryl transfer product 3b, while the oxindole 8b may originate via radical cyclisation of the amidyl radical 11 (X = H) to give the cyclohexadienyl radical 12. Oxidation of this radical 12, mediated by the CuBr₂ formed in situ from the initial step $1b \rightarrow 9$, followed by elimination of a proton provides the observed oxindole product **8b**.^{11,12} No sixmembered cyclic sulfonamide 15 was isolated. This is in contrast to Bu₃SnH-mediated reactions of related sulfonamides where cyclic sulfonamide intermediates were detected.³ Interestingly, the ratio of products seems to be



Scheme 2 Possible mechanism for the formation of oxindole 8b

 Table 1
 Effect of Solvent and Temperature on the Reaction of 1a

Rı

1b —	CuBr, 7		\sim	+ 0=		
	3b			8b		
Entry	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Conv (%)	Mass ba (%)	lance Ratio 3b/8b ^a	
1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	33	65	1.0:0.0 ^b	
2	CH_2Cl_2	40	100	78	1.4:1.0	
3	toluene	r.t.	0	100	_c,d	
4	toluene	50	12	83	1.0:1.0	
5	toluene	110	100	72	0.3:1.0	
6	toluene	110	100	66	0.2:1.0 ^e	
7	THF	50	88	54	2.0:1.0	
8	H_2O	50	100	51	$2.0:1.0^{f}$	
9	MeCN	50	100	74	1.0:0.0 ^g	

^a Ratio determined by ¹H NMR (300 MHz) of the crude mixture. Reaction time 18 h.

^b Reaction time = 168 h.

^c Not measured due to low conversion.

^d Reaction time = 96 h.

^e Reaction time = 48 h.

^f 5% of mass balance contained reduced product 2b.

^g Only 10% of **3b** was isolated. The rest of the mass balance (64%) was uncharacterised material.

solvent and temperature dependent (changing the solvent from CH_2Cl_2 to toluene and increasing the temperature leads to relatively more oxindole **8b**, compare entries 1 and 2 and entries 4 and 5). The use of THF marginally favoured the 1,4-aryl-transfer product **3b** but conversion

was poorer than for the other solvents, while both H₂O and MeCN led to byproducts and consequently more complex reaction mixtures. Increasing the reaction time from 18 hours to 48 hours (compare entries 5 and 6) had little influence on the product ratio. Although we postulated that oxindole 8b was likely formed via cyclisation of 11 (11 \rightarrow $12 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow 8b$) we could not rule out its formation from extrusion of SO₂ from the undetected cyclic sulfonamide 15 (i.e., $15 \rightarrow 16b$ where 16b = 8b).¹³ In order to probe this further we prepared the 4-tolyl derivative $1c^2$ and investigated its reaction with CuBr-7 under two sets of conditions (CH₂Cl₂, 40 °C, 18 h and toluene, 110 °C, 24 h). By analogy to 1b the expected products would be the 2aryl amide 3c and the 6-methyl oxindole 8c (assuming pathway $11 \rightarrow 12 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow 8c$) or 5-methyl oxindole 16c (assuming pathway $9 \rightarrow 14 \rightarrow 15 \rightarrow 16c$). We also prepared authentic samples of both of these oxindoles 8c and 16c via an intramolecular Friedel–Crafts acylation of the corresponding amides 17 and 18 (Scheme 3) and key ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data are presented.¹⁴ As observed for compound 1b the nature of the solvent and the temperature at which the reaction was carried out affected the ratio of products.¹⁵ Thus, the amide **3c** was the major product when 1c was heated at 40 °C in CH₂Cl₂ over 18 hours (1c/ 8c = 1.2:1.0, 55%) while the oxindole 8c was the major product at 110 °C in toluene for 24 hours, (1c/ 8c = 0.6:1.0, 94%), this parallels the reactivity of 1b (see entries 2 and 5, Table 1). Comparison of the spectral details of the oxindole produced with authentic samples of 8c and 16c unambiguously indicated that the product was 6-methyl oxindole 8c providing further evidence for the proposed mechanistic pathway $10 \rightarrow 8c$.

The generation of amidyl radicals by the loss of SO₂ from sulfonamides has recently been reported by Zard¹⁶ and amidyl radical cyclisations are well known in the literature¹⁷ with the majority of procedures involve 4-



Scheme 3 Synthesis of regioisomeric oxindoles 8c and 16c and representative ¹H NMR data (ppm)

 exo^{18} or 5- exo^{19-24} cyclisations onto alkenes. Cyclisation of amidyl radicals directly into aromatic groups is not so well established and only reduction was reported for the structurally related amidyl radical **20**.²⁵



Figure 2 Structures of amidyl radical 20 and sulfonamides 1d-h

We next briefly investigated the effect of changing the electronic nature of the para substituent (Figure 2). The synthesis of these substrates has been described previously.² Treating each substrate with 1 equivalent of CuBr-7 in either CH₂Cl₂ or toluene led to both the amides 3d-h and the oxindoles **8d–h** in varying ratios (Table 2). In all cases, the rates of reaction were faster than for the parent compound 1b. The relative order of the rate of reaction (in CH_2Cl_2) was found to be 1b = ca. 1c < 1d = ca. 1e = ca. 1f< 1g = ca. 1h indicating both electron-donating and -withdrawing groups accelerated the transformation. The intermediate cyclohexadienyl radical **10** will be stabilised by both electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents which should favour cyclisation and is reflected in this rate. The reactions carried out in toluene took longer to reach completion, and this may be reflected in the relative solubilities of CuBr-7 in both solvents. As before, changing the conditions from CH₂Cl₂ (40 °C) to toluene (110 °C) increased the relative proportion of the oxindole 8 in the mixture (Table 2). In CH_2Cl_2 , the main product is always the amide **3b-h** with the ratio of the two products **3b-h/8b-h** increasing from 1.2:1.0 to 4.0:1.0. The order of this increase being similar to that reflected in the relative rates of the reactions, 1c = ca. 1b = ca. 1d < 1e = ca. 1f < 1g = ca. 1h. We previously reported that when 1b-dare reacted with a different copper complex (CuBr-4) no oxindole **8b–d** is detected and **3b–d** is formed.² This indicates that the relative ratio of amide **3b**,**c** to oxindole **8b**,**c** is temperature, solvent, and ligand dependent. A difference in reactivity and selectivity has also been observed between between CuBr-4 and CuBr-7 in atom-transfer radical cyclisation reactions. In particular, radical reactions that use amine ligands (e.g. CuBr-4 or CuBr-6), generally lead to greater reduction of intermediate radicals than those derived from pyridine ligands (e.g. CuBr-5 or CuBr-7).^{3b} The reason for this observation is not clear, but the source of the 'H' mediating the reduction was proposed to originate from the ligand (e.g.. 4 or 6) itself.^{3b} Thus, the rate of reduction of 11 is likely to be faster with CuBr-4 than with CuBr-7 explaining why no oxindole is formed with the former ligand. In addition, the redox potential of CuBr-4 and CuBr-7 complexes are sufficiently different²⁶ that the rate of the oxidation step $12 \rightarrow 13$ is also likely to be ligand dependent.

In conclusion, we have shown that reaction of *N*-butyl-*N*-(2-bromo-2-methylpropionyl)arylsulfonamides **1b**-h with CuBr-7 leads to amidyl radicals via 1,4-aryl migration with concomitant loss of SO₂ which can further undergo cyclisation to oxindoles **8b**-h or reduction to amides **3b**-h with the ratio dependent upon the solvent and temperature employed.

Table 2 Effect of Substituent X on the Reactions of 1d-h

1d–h -	CuBr / 7	Ar HN	\sim	+ 0=	Bu X
Compd	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Time (h) ^a	Yield (%) ^b	Ratio of 3d–h/8d–h°
1d	CH_2Cl_2	40	7	59	1.4:1.0
1d	toluene	110	18	45	0.5:1.0
1e	CH_2Cl_2	40	7	66	2.4:1.0
1f	CH_2Cl_2	40	8	80	2.7:1.0
1g	CH_2Cl_2	40	4	53	4.0:1.0
1g	toluene	110	18	66	1.3:1.0
1h	CH_2Cl_2	40	18 ^d	73	4.0:1.0
1h	toluene	80	18 ^e	45	1.0:1.0 ^f

^a Time taken to reach 100% conversion.

^b Combined yield of **3d–h** and **8d–h**.

^c Ratio determined by ¹H NMR (300 MHz) of the crude mixture.

^d The reaction had proceeded to 100% conversion in 3 h.

^e Under indentical conditions the reaction of **1c** proceeded to 56% conversion.

^f A minor uncharacterised product (5%) was also isolated.

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the EPSRC for DTA studentships (N.P.M.) and for a project studentship EP/F016573 (H.P.).

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- (14) 2-Bromo-N-butyl-2-methyl-N-4-tolylpropanamide (1.50 g, 4.8 mmol) was added to anhyd AlCl₃ (1.62 g, 12.1 mmol) under a stream of nitrogen. The mixture was heated at 50 °C for 10 min and then maintained at 160 °C for 1 h. The mixture was washed with $H_2O(5 \times 50 \text{ mL})$ and extracted with Et₂O, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated to give 16c (0.45 g, 41%) after chromatography (PE-EtOAc, 10:1); $R_f = 0.40$ (PE–EtOAc, 10:1). IR: $v_{max} = 2962, 2929, 2865,$ 1705, 1619, 1599, 1493, 1381, 1351, 1192 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR $(400 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta = 7.04 (1 \text{ H}, \text{d}, J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}), 7.03 (1 \text{ H}, \text{d})$ s), 6.75 (1 H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 3.69 (2 H, t, J = 8.0 Hz), 2.34 (3 H, s), 1.65 (2 H, quin, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.35 (2 H, sext, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.35 (3 H, s), 0.94 (3 H, t, J = 8.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 181.3, 139.7, 136.1, 131.7, 127.7, 123.3, 108.1, 44.1, 39.6, 29.5, 24.5, 21.1, 20.1, 13.8. ESI-HRMS: *m/z* calcd for Na⁺C₁₅H₂₁NO: 254.1515; found [Na⁺]: 254.1522.

Data for the Mixture of 8c and 19

IR: $v_{max} = 2963, 2931, 2871, 1707, 1606, 1462, 1383, 1343, 1223 cm⁻¹. ESI-HRMS:$ *m/z*calcd for Na⁺C₁₅H₂₁NO: 254.1515; found [Na⁺]: 254.1519.

Data for 19

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.14 (1 H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.81 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.71 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.70 (2 H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.40 (3 H, s), 1.65 (2 H, quin, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.44 (3 H, s), 1.37 (2 H, sext, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 0.94 (3 H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 181.3, 142.3, 134.2, 132.8, 127.4, 124.7, 106.1, 44.9, 39.6, 29.5, 22.4, 20.1, 18.2, 13.8.

Data for 8c

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.08 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.86 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.68 (1 H, s), 3.69 (2 H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.38 (3 H, s), 1.65 (2 H, quin, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.37 (2 H, sext, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.34 (3 H, s), 0.95 (3 H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 181.3, 142.3, 137.6, 133.2, 122.6, 122.1, 109.2, 43.8, 39.5, 29.6, 24.6, 21.8, 20.1, 13.8.

- (15) A typical procedure is illustrated for reaction of **1b** with CuBr (entry 2, Table 1). Substrate **1b** (0.3 mmol) was added to dry CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL), and CuBr (0.33 mmol) and tripyridylamine (0.33 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 40 °C for 18 h. Upon cooling, the crude mixture was passed through a small silica plug (eluting with EtOAc, 20 mL to remove copper residues). After evaporation of the solvent and chromatography (PE–EtOAc, 8:1) a mixture of amide **3b** and oxindole **8b** were isolated in the ratio of 1.4:1.0, combined yield 78%. Spectroscopic data for **3b** were identical to an authentic sample prepared previously^{2.9} and data for **8b** were identical to that reported above.¹⁴
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