Iodide-Mediated or Iodide-Catalyzed Demethylation and Friedel– Crafts C–H Borylative Cyclization Leading to Thiophene-Fused 1,2-Oxaborine Derivatives

Keisuke Shigemori,[†] Momoka Watanabe,[†] Julie Kong,^{†,#} Koichi Mitsudo,^{*,†®} Atsushi Wakamiya,^{‡®} Hiroki Mandai,^{†®} and Seiji Suga^{*,†®}

[†]Division of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Okayama University, 3-1-1 Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530, Japan

[‡]Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto 611-0011, Japan

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The first synthesis of dithieno-1,2-oxaborine derivatives was achieved via iodide-mediated or iodide-catalyzed demethylation of 3-methoxy-2,2'-bithiophene and subsequent C–H borylation. A wide variety of thiophene-fused oxaborines could be synthesized by the procedure.

rganoboranes have played key roles in the field of organic chemistry as synthetic building blocks¹ and in organic materials.² Since the pioneering study by Dewar,³ oxaborines, which are benzene derivatives containing boron and oxygen atoms, have gained focus because of their unique properties.⁴ In particular, π -extended oxaborine compounds have attracted increased attention in recent years as active components of organic materials.⁵ For instance, Hatakeyama and co-workers recently reported polycyclic aromatic compounds containing the 1,4-oxaborine skeleton, which could be used as a host material for organic light-emitting diodes and a thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitter (Figure 1a).^{5a} In 2016, Hatakeyama^{5b} and Müllen^{5c} independently reported the syntheses of double helicenes having the oxaborine skeleton. Hatakeyama reported the ambipolar semiconductor characteristics of these species, and Müllen found that these compounds could be transformed to O-B-doped nanographenes.

Furthermore, incorporating thiophene moieties into acene derivatives has proven to be a powerful tool for conferring interesting properties, and these species have been the focus of research as promising compounds for the synthesis of organic materials.⁶ Currently, boron-containing thienoacenes, such as thienoazaborines, are also highly topical research targets.⁷ For instance, Perepichka reported terthiophenes fused with 1,2azaborine units and applied them to fluorescence emitters (Figure 1b).^{7a} Zhang and He reported angular-type thienoazaborines with high quantum yields, and used them to host materials for blue organic light-emitting diodes.^{7k} Wang, Yuan, and Pei reported the use of B-N bond incorporated naphthotetrathiophene derivatives as p-type organic field effect transistors.^{7d} Although there have been several reports on the synthesis and properties of thienoacenes containing 1,2azaborines, to the best our knowledge, there has been no report on the synthesis of thienoacenes containing 1,2-

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Figure 1. (a) Representative examples of previously reported 1,2-and 1,4-oxaborines, and (b) previously reported thiophene-fused 1,2-azaborines. (c) Dithieno-1,2-oxaborines, benzothieno-1,2-oxaborines, and thienofuro-1,2-oxaborines (this work).

oxaborines, although the latter should also be potential candidates for the synthesis of organic materials (Figure 1c).

We have been interested in the synthesis of π -extended thienoacenes,⁸ and recently reported the synthesis and properties of thiophene-fused 1,4-azaborine derivatives.^{8a} In this study, we turn our attention to the first and efficient synthesis of dithieno-1,2-oxaborine derivatives (DTOBs). We first considered that DTOBs could be derived from precursors

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having a hydroxy group on their thiophene ring by Friedel– Crafts-type C-H borylation (Scheme 1a). Although the

Scheme 1. Present Synthetic Strategy for Dithieno-1,2oxaborines (DTOBs): (a) Preliminary Study and (b) This Work



desired DTOB was obtained in excellent yield, synthesis of the precursors required several steps and the precursor species were relatively unstable.⁹ In contrast, methoxy-group-substituted thiophene derivatives are stable and easy to handle, and a wide variety of derivatives can be easily obtained via coupling reactions. Therefore, methoxythiophene derivatives were selected as precursors for DTOBs from the synthesis point of view. We herein report the first synthesis of DTOBs via tandem reactions involving iodide-mediated or iodidecatalyzed demethylation and subsequent intramolecular Friedel–Crafts-type C–H borylation (Scheme 1b).

First, 1a was selected as a model substrate and subjected to demethylation and subsequent C-H borylation (Table 1).





^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), PhBCl₂ (1.5 equiv), Bu₄NI (0–1.2 equiv), Et₃N (0–1.4 equiv), PhCl (0.14 M), 135 °C, 24 h. ^{*b*}Determined by ¹H NMR with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard. ^cIsolated yield. ^{*d*}Performed with PhBpin, instead of PhBCl₂. N.D. = not detected. ^{*e*}Performed with 1.0 mmol of **1a**.

Treatment of 1a with PhBCl₂ (1.5 equiv) in chlorobenzene at 135 °C for 24 h yielded no reaction (Table 1, entry 1). To promote demethylation of the methoxy group, various additives were employed, and Bu_4NI was found effective. In the presence of 1.2 equiv of Bu_4NI , 1a was consumed completely and the desired oxaborine 2a was obtained in 71% yield (Table 1, entry 2). Further optimization revealed that

addition of Et₃N increased the yield of **2a**. With Et₃N (1.0 equiv), the reaction proceeded quantitatively (Table 1, entry 3; >99% NMR yield, 96% isolated yield). We also tried to use phenylboronic acid pinacol ester (PhBpin) instead of PhBCl₂, but **2a** was not obtained at all. Thereafter, the amount of Bu₄NI was reduced to catalytic quantities, where demethylation also proceeded upon decreasing the amount of Bu₄NI to 0.2 equiv to give **2a** in 90% yield (Table 1, entry 4). With 1.4 equiv of Et₃N, the yield of **2a** increased slightly to 93% (Table 1, entry 5). On the 1.0 mmol scale, **2a** was also obtained in good yield (Table 1, entry 6).

To clarify the scope of the iodide-catalyzed demethylation and subsequent C–H borylation, several thienooxaborines 2were synthesized under the optimized conditions (Scheme 2).





^{*a*}Reaction conditions: 1 (0.20 mmol), PhBCl₂ (1.5 equiv), Bu₄NI (0.2 equiv), Et₃N (1.4 equiv), PhCl (0.14 M). Isolated yield. ^{*b*}Performed with Bu₄NI (1.2 equiv), Et₃N (1.0 equiv). ^{*c*}N.D. = not detected.

Dithienooxaborine isomers 2b-2d were obtained from the corresponding precursors in excellent yields. Precursors having a 3-methoxybenzo[b]thienyl group were effective for this reaction and the π -expanded thienooxaborine derivatives 2e-2g were obtained in good yields. The yield of 2e increased to 97% with 1.2 equiv of Bu_4NI . Furan-fused thienooxaborines could also be obtained by this reaction. The iodide-catalyzed demethylation and C-H borylation proceeded smoothly to give the corresponding thienofuro-1,2-oxaborine derivatives 2h and 2i in the respective yields of 83% and 91%. In contrast, indole-fused thienooxaborines 2j and 2k were not obtained. The demethylation process proceeded, but the desired oxaborines 2j and 2k were not obtained, probably because of their instability.

Scheme 3. Synthesis of Benzene-Fused Thienooxaborines 4^a



^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **3** (0.20 mmol), PhBCl₂ (1.5 equiv), Bu₄NI (1.2 equiv), Et₃N (1.0 equiv), PhCl (0.14 M), 135 °C, 24 h. Isolated yield. ^{*b*}Performed with Bu₄NI (0.2 equiv) and Et₃N (1.4 equiv). 'Performed with PhBCl₂ (3.0 equiv), Bu₄NI (2.4 equiv), and Et₃N (2.0 equiv) in PhCl (0.07 M). N.D. = not detected.

group on the benzene skeleton, under catalytic conditions gave oxaborine 4a in moderate yield (69%) with 21% of the starting material. Re-examination of the reaction conditions revealed that the addition of a stoichiometric amount Bu₄NI was essential for the substrate. With 1.2 equiv of Bu₄NI, the yield of 4a was 94%. Both precursors, bearing electron-donating or electron-withdrawing groups, could be used for the reaction. Both 4b and 4c were obtained in high yields (4b, 92%; 4c, 85%). This strategy could also be applied to the construction of highly π -expanded thienooxaborine derivatives. The demethylation and C-H borylation proceeded smoothly to give the corresponding ladder-type thienooxaborines 4d and 4e in 96% yield. In contrast, benzene-fused thienooxaborines 4f-4i having an oxygen atom on their thiophene rings were unfortunately not obtained, possibly because of the lower nucleophilicity of the benzene ring of the precursors.

To obtain further insight into the reaction mechanism, the products of the early stage of the reaction were examined (Table 2). The model substrate 1a was treated with 1.2 equiv of Bu₄NI and 1.0 equiv of Et₃N under the established reaction conditions for 1 h. At this stage, the demethylation product 5 and the desired product 2a were obtained in respective yields of 64% and 28%. This result suggests that the demethylation step may be very fast, and the intramolecular C–H borylation step would be slower than the demethylation step. Without Bu₄NI or Et₃N, demethylation was very slow, and more than 80% of the starting material 1a was recovered (Table 2, entries 2 and 3). In contrast, with 20 mol % of Bu₄NI and 1.0 equiv of Et₃N, the catalytic demethylation product 5 in 54% yield and the

Table 2. Effect of the Amount of Bu_4NI and Et_3N at the Start of the Reaction^{*a*}



^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), PhBCl₂ (1.5 equiv), Bu₄NI (0–1.2 equiv), Et₃N (0–1.0 equiv), PhCl (0.14 M), 135 °C, 1 h. Isolated yield. ^bMethyl iodide was used in place of Bu₄NI. ^cBu₄NCl was used in place of Bu₄NI.

cyclization product **2a** in 13% yield (Table 2, entry 4). The addition of 20 mol% of methyl iodide also promoted the reaction (Table 2, entry 5). The use of Bu₄NCl instead of Bu₄NI was not effective (Table 2, entry 6), indicating that the presence of I⁻ is essential for the reaction.

Based on the results presented above, a plausible mechanism for the reaction is illustrated in Figure 2. First, 1 reacts with



Figure 2. Plausible mechanism for the synthesis of DTOB.

PhBCl₂ to afford complex **A**. Thereafter, I⁻ attacks the methyl group of **A**, where demethylation affords the intermediate **B**, iodomethane, and triethylmethylammonium chloride (MeEt₃NCl) which would be in equilibrium with triethylamine and chloromethane (MeCl).¹⁰ Subsequently, in the presence of Et₃N, intramolecular Friedel–Crafts-type C–H borylation furnishes **2** and Et₃N·HCl. The iodomethane generated in situ reacts with Et₃N to regenerate MeEt₃NI.

From the synthesis point of view, introduction of another substituent on the B atom of DTOB has a significant impact. As an example, introduction of the mesityl group on the DTOB skeleton is demonstrated in Scheme 4. Precursor 1 was treated with BCl_3 to generate chlorinated DTOB 6 in situ, and

Scheme 4. Introduction of a Mesityl Group on Boron Atom^a



^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol), BCl₃ (1.5 equiv), Bu₄NI (1.2 equiv), Et₃N (1.0 equiv), PhCl (0.14 M), 135 °C, 24 h, followed by MesMgBr (5 equiv), 0 °C, 30 min. Isolated yield. ^{*b*}Performed with 1.0 mmol of **1**. ^{(Performed at room temperature.}

6 was then reacted with the mesityl Grignard reagent (MesMgBr, 5 equiv) to give DTOB 2l and 2m in high yields (2l, 93%; 2m, 91%).

The fundamental physical properties of the thus-obtained DTOB and other related derivatives were explored. Notably, all the DTOBs have low HOMO–LUMO levels, and are easy to handle. [Here, HOMO represents highest occupied molecular orbital and LUMO represents the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital.] In particular, highly π -expanded oxaborine **4d** and **4e** exhibited good fluorescence properties.¹¹

In conclusion, we achieved the syntheses of DTOB and related derivatives via iodide-mediated or iodide-catalyzed demethylation and subsequent intramolecular C–H borylation. π -Expanded ladder-type oxaborines were also readily constructed by this method. The fundamental physical properties of the products were also studied. Further investigations of these derivatives 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.or-glett.9b00485.

Experimental details, photophysical and electrochemical properties of 2a-2m and 4a-4e, spectral data for all new compounds, data of theoretical calculations (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 1895523 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.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Authors

*E-mail: mitsudo@okayama-u.ac.jp (K. Mitsudo).

Letter

*E-mail: suga@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp (S. Suga). ORCID [©]

Koichi Mitsudo: 0000-0002-6744-7136 Atsushi Wakamiya: 0000-0003-1430-0947 Hiroki Mandai: 0000-0001-9121-3850 Seiji Suga: 0000-0003-0635-2077

Present Address

[#]Faculty of Science and Engineering, Sorbonne Université, 4 place Jussieu 75005 Paris, France.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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(9) For the detail, see the Supporting Information.

(10) A conversion of tributylmethylammonium chloride to tributylamine and methyl chloride under the similar condition was confirmed. For details, see the Supporting Information.

(11) For the detail of the physical properties of DTOB derivatives, see the Supporting Information.