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Communication

# Silver-mediated aminophosphinoylation of propargyl alcohols with aromatic amines and H-phosphine oxides leading to $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides

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## A new and convenient silver mediated aminophosphinoylation of propargyl alcohols with aromatic amines and H-phosphine oxides for the construction of $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides has been developed.

#### ABSTRACT

A new silver mediated aminophosphinoylation of propargyl alcohols with aromatic amines and H-phosphine oxides for the construction of  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides has been developed. The C-N and C-P bond could be efficiently formed in one pot operation *via* sequential C–C and C-O bond cleavage of propargylic alcohols. This present methodology, which not only provides a simple and alternative strategy for the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides, but also opens a new window for the cleavage reactions of propargyl alcohols *via* dealkynalation coupling.

Keywords: Silver; Aminophosphinoylation; C-C bond cleavage; Propargylic alcohols; α-Aminophosphine oxides

Transition-metal-mediated selective cleavage of C–C bond has been regarded as an intriguing and powerful protocol for the construction of various complex organic molecules [1]. In the past decades, many strategies involving C-C bond cleavage have been significantly developed, such as ring-opening of strained molecules with three-or four-membered rings [2], decarbonylation of ynones [3], C-C bond cleavage of ketones [4]. Despite the great progress that has been made in this field, the development of new C-C bond cleavage method to access important valuable organic compounds is still highly desirable.

Propargyl alcohols as readily available building blocks have been widely used in organic synthesis [5]. Generally, the reactions using propargyl alcohols mainly focus on the propargylic substitutions [6] and rearrangements [7]. So far, only a few examples of C–C bond cleavage reactions of propargyl alcohols have been reported owing to the relative inertness and thermodynamic stability of C-C bond [8]. In this context, propargyl alcohols were usually utilized as alkynylation reagents to construct the alkynylation products *via* deacetonative coupling reactions catalyzed by Pd and Rh salts in high temperature [9]. For example, Wu and co-workers reported palladium-catalyzed oxidative deacetonative coupling of *tert*-propargyl alcohols with H-phosphonates leading to alkynylphosphonates through C-C cleavage process (Scheme 1a) [9c]. Multicomponent reactions as one of the most versatile and powerful synthetic protocols have attracted an increasing attention to assemble complex compounds from simple and readily available starting materials [10]. As our ongoing interest in the synthesis of organic phosphorus compounds [11] and multicomponent reactions [12], herein, we wish to report a new and efficient silver mediated aminophosphinoylation of propargyl alcohols with amines and H-phosphine oxides leading to  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides, which are an important class of organic phosphorus compounds that exhibit a wide range of biological and pharmacological activities [13]. The present methodology provides a convenient and alternative approach to access various  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides with moderate to good yields, in which the new dealkynylation coupling was achieved *via* C–C bond cleavage of propargyl alcohols (Scheme 1b).

Initially, 1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-ol (1a), aniline (2a) and diphenylphosphine oxide (3a) were chosen as model substrates to optmize the reaction parameters. When the model reaction was performed in DMSO at 70 °C under air in the presence of Ag<sub>2</sub>O (2 equiv.), the product

**4a** was isolated in 19% yield (Table 1, entry 1). Next, various oxidants were investigated to improve the reaction efficiency (Table 1, entries 2–10). To our delight, the yield of product **4a** was increased to 68% when  $Ag_2CO_3$  was employed as oxidant (Table 1, entry 3). When other oxidants such as  $CuCl_2$ ,  $FeCl_3$ ,  $K_2S_2O_8$ , TBHP, DTBP, and  $O_2$  were examined, none of desired product **4a** was detected (Table 1, entries 5–10). The screening of solvents indicated that DMSO was still optimal than others such as DMF,  $CH_3CN$ , Toluene, THF, 1,4-dioxane and DCE (Table 1, entries 3, 11–16). Further investigation of the reaction temperature showed the highest yield of **4a** (78%) was obtained when the reaction was conducted at 80 °C (Table 1, entry 18). The decrease or increase of reaction temperature would lead to the lower reaction efficiency (Table 1, entries 17, 19 and 20).

With the optimal conditions in hand, the scope of propargyl alcohols was firstly examined and the results were shown in Scheme 2. In general, various aryl propargyl alcohols containing *para*-substituted electron-donating or electron-withdrawing groups were compatible for this transformation, giving corresponding products **4a-4i** in moderate to excellent yields. Aryl propargyl alcohols bearing electron-donating groups were converted to the corresponding compounds **4b-4d** in higher yields relative to the electron-withdrawing substituted analogs (**4e-4i**). *meta-* or *ortho*-substituted aryl propargyl alcohols were also well tolerated in the reaction, affording the desired products **4j-4n** in 76%-97% yields. Additionally, multi-substituted aryl propargyl alcohols reacted smoothly with aniline and diphenylphosphine oxide, giving the corresponding products **4o** and **4p** in 75% and 67% yields, respectively. 1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)prop-2-yn-1-ol could also afford **4q** in 65% yield. It should be noted that aliphatic propargylic alcohols were also suitable substrates leading to the products **4r** and **4s** in good yields. Nevertheless, when 2-phenylbut-3-yn-2-ol was used in the present reaction system, none of the desired product **4t** was observed.

Next, the scope of various amines and H-phosphine oxides was explored. As shown in Scheme 3, both electron-donating and electronwithdrawing aryl amines were suitable for this reaction to give the corresponding products in moderate to good yields (**5a-5i**). The steric hindrance of substituents on the aryl amines had a slightly effect on the yields of desired products **5j** and **5k**. Gratifyingly, the disubstituted aryl amines like 3,5-dimethylaniline, 3,5-dimethoxyaniline and 4-fluoro-2-methylaniline could afford the corresponding products **5l-5n** in good yields. Heterocyclic amines were suitable for this reaction, but leading to the corresponding products **5o** and **5p** in relatively lower yields. Finally, the compatibility of various H-phosphine oxides was tested. In addition to diphenylphosphine oxide **3a**, a series of aryl or alkyl substituted H-phosphine oxides were all compatible for the reaction to produce the corresponding **5q-5u** in moderate to good yields. H-Phosphonate such as diethyl phosphite could also be used in this reaction, affording the desired product **5v** in relatively lower yield.

In order to gain insights into the reaction mechanism, several control experiments were carried out (Scheme 4). When radical scavenger 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO) was added in the model reaction system, the desired product **4a** was still obtained in 72% yield, indicating that a radical process might not be involved in this transformation (Scheme 4a). Furthermore, benzaldehyde **6a** was isolated in 17% yield when 1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-ol **1a** was separately treated with Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> under standard condition for 3 h (Scheme 4b). This result showed that aldehyde would be formed in the C-C bond cleavage of propargyl alcohol. Moreover, the reaction of imine **7a** with diphenylphosphine oxide **3a** afforded the corresponding product **4a** in 96% yield, suggesting that imine intermediate might be involved in the present reaction system (Scheme 4c). When the reaction of 1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one, aniline (**2a**) and diphenylphosphine oxide (**3a**) was carried out under standard conditions, the side-product (*Z*)-1-phenyl-3-(phenylamino)prop-2-en-1-one **8a** was isolated in 46% yield and product **4a** was not observed (Scheme 4d). Furthermore, the reaction did not occur when 1,3-diphenylprop-2-yn-1-ol or 1-phenylbut-2-yn-1-ol was used in the present reaction system (Scheme 4e). The above results indicated that terminal alkyne and hydroxy group of propargyl alcohols should play a key role in silver mediated C-C bond cleavage of propargylic alcohols.

Based on the experimental results and previous reports [14], a possible reaction pathway was proposed for the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides as shown in Scheme 5. Firstly, the reaction of 1-phenylprop-2-yn-1-ol **1a** with Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> might lead to the formation of alkynyl silver, which further underwent C-C bond cleavage to generate benzaldehyde **6a** under heating conditions. Next, the condensation reaction of benzaldehyde **6a** with aniline **2a** generated imine intermediate **7a**. Finally, the addition of diphenylphosphine oxide **3a** to imine **7a** afforded the desired product **4a**.

In summary, we have developed a new and efficient silver-mediated three-component reaction of propargyl alcohols, aromatic amines, and H-phosphine oxides leading to  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides. The present aminophosphinoylation reaction could be achieved in one pot operation via sequential C–C and C-O bond cleavage of propargyl alcohols. This strategy provides an attractive and alternative approach to construct  $\alpha$ -aminophosphine oxides from simple and readily available materials with wide substrate scope and good functional group tolerance. Further synthetic application and mechanistic investigation is ongoing in our group.

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Previous work: phosphorylation of propargyl alcohols via deacetonative coupling

This work: aminophosphinoylation of propargyl alcohols via dealkynylation coupling

(b) 
$$R^{1}$$
  $R^{2}$   $R^{2}$ 

Scheme 1. Synthetic methods for synthesis of organic phosphorus compounds via C-C bond cleavage of propargyl alcohols.



Scheme 2. Substrate scope of propargylic alcohols. Reaction conditions: 1 (0.6 mmol), 2a (0.5 mmol), 3a (1.0 mmol), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol), DMSO (4 mL), 80 °C, 12h. Isolated yields based on 2a.



Scheme 3. Substrate scope of amines and H-phosphine oxides. Reaction conditions: 1a (0.6 mmol), 2 (0.5 mmol), 3 (1.0 mmol), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol), DMSO (4 mL), 80 °C, 12 h. Isolated yields based on 2.



Scheme 5. Possible reaction pathway.

Table 1 Screening of the reaction conditions.<sup>a</sup>

$HIV^{Ph}$ + $HV^{Ph}$ + $HV^{Ph}$ + $HV^{Ph}$						
1a	Ph Solvent, I (°C), 1 2a 3a	12 h 🧹 Ph 4a				
Entry	Oxidant	Solvent	T (°C)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>		
1	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	DMSO	70	19		
2	AgOAc	DMSO	70	41		
3	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	70	68		
4	AgNO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	70	9		
5	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	DMSO	70	0		
6	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	70	0		
7	$K_2S_2O_8$	DMSO	70	0		
8	TBHP	DMSO	70	0		
9	DTBP	DMSO	70	0		
10	O <sub>2</sub>	DMSO	70	0		
11	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMF	70	47		
12	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	70	19		
13	$Ag_2CO_3$	Toluene	70	10		
14	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	THF	70	26		
15	$Ag_2CO_3$	1,4-Dioxane	70	18		
16	$Ag_2CO_3$	DCE	70	59		
17	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	60	36		
18	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	80	78		
19	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	90	63		
20	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	100	52		

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.6 mmol), **2a** (0.5 mmol), **3a** (1.0 mmol), Oxidant (1.0 mmol), 60-100 °C, Solvent (4 mL), 12 h.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield based on **2a**.