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Organoiodine-Catalyzed Enantioselective Intermolecular Oxyamination of Alkenes

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ABSTRACT: Metal-free, catalytic enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of alkenes is realized by use of organoiodine(I/III) chemistry. The protocol is applicable toward aryl- and alkyl-substituted alkenes with high enantioselectivity and electronically controlled regioselectivity. The oxyaminated products can be easily deprotected in one step to reveal free amino alcohols in high yields without loss of enantioselectivity. A key to our success is the discovery of a virtually unexplored chemical entity, N-(fluorosulfonyl)carbamate, as a bifunctional N,O-nucleophile.

 β -Amino alcohol is a common structural motif in natural products and pharmaceuticals,¹ and also in asymmetric synthesis as chiral auxiliaries, ligands, and catalysts.² One ideal way to access enantioenriched β -amino alcohols is catalytic enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of alkenes given its ease of synthesis planning and the availability of a vast number of alkenes.³ The standard procedure for this purpose has long been the osmium-catalyzed Sharpless asymmetric aminohydroxylation (AA),⁴ while it is plagued with poor regioselectivity,⁵ and the toxicity and cost of osmium,⁶ hampering its more comprehensive application.

A handful of reports have emerged to address this challenge by using transition metal catalysis,⁷ although few offer ways to transform alkenes to unprotected β -amino alcohols. Yoon and co-workers have described the iron-catalyzed enantioselective oxyamination of vinylarenes and terminal dienes with an Nnosyl oxaziridine which reveals free β -amino alcohols after twostep deprotection.^{7b} The Arnold group has disclosed the engineered hemeprotein-catalyzed enantioselective aminohydroxylation of vinylarenes which directly affords unprotected β -amino alcohols.^{7†} It is of note that these two studies are not a direct replacement of the Sharpless AA, as these methodologies exhibit complementary regioselectivity. Outside transition metal catalysis, Denmark and co-workers have reported the selenium-catalyzed syn-oxyamination of a single 1,2-diarylethylene without referring to deprotection.⁸ Even with these advances, aliphatic alkenes remain a very challenging substrate class in catalytic enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination.9

Chiral organoiodine(I/III) catalysis has become a reliable tool to difunctionalize alkenes in a stereocontrolled manner without the need for transition metals,¹⁰ owing to the rapid development of this field in the past 15 years.¹¹ However, two identical functionalities are inevitably incorporated into an alkene (Figure 1a),¹² unless at least one of the nucleophiles is preinstalled in the substrate.¹³ An unmet challenge in this field is, therefore, intermolecular heterodifunctionalization of alkenes with high regio- and stereocontrol,¹⁴ which will enable valuable synthetic transformations like oxyamination. With



Figure 1. Organoiodine(I/III)-catalyzed enantioselective intermolecular difunctionalization of alkenes.

regard to the use of organoiodine chemistry for the oxyamination of alkenes,¹⁵ the fully intramolecular, stoichiometric oxyamination using a chiral organoiodine(III) reagent remains the state-of-the-art as reported by the Wirth group.^{16,29}

Herein, we report the realization of an organoiodine(I/III)catalyzed enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of alkenes, capitalizing on the discovery of a novel carbamate as

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Table 1. Optimization of Stoichiometric Oxyamination

| Ph | Me + FO ₂ S | Phl(OAc) ₂ (1.2 eq.) 1a·Li (1.2 eq.) CD ₃ CN (1 M) 25 °C. 4 h |) FO ₂ S, O Ph', O Ph', O |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| | la | 20 0, 11 | 2 Me |
| entry | change from the standa | ard conditions | yield (%) ^{a,b} |
| 1 | none | | 73 (72) ^c |
| 2 | without la·Li | 45 | |
| 3 | without 1a | 5 | |
| 4 | CDCl ₃ as solvent | 55 | |
| 5 | TsNHCO ₂ Bn and TsN(Li)Co instead of 1a and 1a·Li | 0 | |
| 6 ^d | 1b and 1b·Li instead of 1a an | 76 | |
| 7 ^e | 7 instead of PhI(OAc) ₂ | (72%, 93% ee) | |

^a0.10 mmol scale. ^bNMR yield (isolated yield). ^c0.3 mmol scale. ^dPhI(OAc)₂ (0.20 mmol), **1b** (0.20 mmol), **1b·Li** (0.12 mmol). ^e7 (0.12 mmol), CH₃CN (0.5 M), -20 °C, 48 h.



Scheme 1. Deprotection and Reagent Synthesis

a. Deprotection



a bifunctional N,O-nucleophile. The oxyamination and successive deprotection are conducted without needs for transition metals, harsh conditions, or inert atmosphere. Compared with the Sharpless AA, the equal level of enantioselectivities and higher regioselectivities are achieved over a broad range of vinylarenes.¹⁷ Furthermore, the first highly regio- and enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of aliphatic alkenes is accomplished.

Our conceptual blueprint is the use of a carbamate reagent,^{8,18} which acts as a bifunctional nitrogen and oxygen nucleophile sequentially toward an alkene (Figure 1b). A suitable carbamate reagent needs to have two seemingly opposite properties: one is high acidity to facilitate the generation of a reactive alkene-coordinated iodonium intermediate; the other is high nucleophilicity toward the activated alkene. For the successful implementation of this protocol, the amide nitrogen, not the carbonyl oxygen, of the carbamate must attack at the alkene carbon with more positive charge. At

Table 2. Scope of Stoichiometric Oxyamination^{*a,b*}



^{*a*}0.30 mmol scale. ^{*b*}Isolated yield of single regioisomer, see the SI for regioselectivity of each reaction. ^{*c*}Ia (0.72 mmol), Ia·Li (0.72 mmol). ^{*d*}PhI(OAc)₂ (0.60 mmol), Ib (0.60 mmol), Ib·Li (0.36 mmol). ^{*e*}PhI(OAc)₂ (0.90 mmol), Ib (0.90 mmol), Ib·Li (0.36 mmol). ^{*f*}0.10 mmol scale with 7 (0.12 mmol), Ia (0.12–0.24 mmol), Ia·Li (0.12–0.24 mmol), see the SI for details.

the same time, facile deprotection of the oxyaminated products must be taken into consideration to reveal free β -amino alcohols without loss of stereochemical integrity and overall yield.

We first sought to identify a carbamate reagent which fulfills all these criteria, in a stoichiometric oxyamination of *trans-β*methylstyrene using PhI(OAc)₂. A crucial breakthrough in this attempt was the discovery of benzyl *N*-(fluorosulfonyl)carbamate **1a**, a chemical entity that has never been used before in organic synthesis,¹⁹ as a bifunctional N,Onucleophile (Table 1). Under the optimized conditions, *trans-β*-methylstyrene reacted with **1a** and its lithium salt **1a**• Li under air at 25 °C to give *trans*-oxazolidinone **2** in 73% yield. The observed syn-stereospecificity and high regioselectivity (>95:5) are consistent with our proposed mechanism



^{*a*}0.10 mmol scale with MMPP (0.10 mmol) at -10 °C. ^{*b*}0.10 mmol scale with Selectfluor (0.15 mmol) at 10 °C. ^{*c*}Isolated yield of single regioisomer; see the SI for regioselectivity of each reaction. ^{*d*}Performed with **25b**.





(see Figure 1b). We assume that the strong electronwithdrawing nature and small size of the fluorosulfonyl group are crucial for the generation of the iodonium intermediate and the successive attack of the nitrogen atom, respectively. In this reaction, the benzyl moiety of **1a** was trapped by acetonitrile and the carbamate reagent, generating byproducts **3**–**5**. Without lithium salt **1a**•**Li**, the yield was reduced, and aldehyde **6**, which stemmed from competitive addition of water, became the major byproduct (entry 2).²⁰ Essentially no reaction took place when lithium salt **1a**•**Li** alone was used in the absence of **1a** (entry **3**). Acetonitrile is the solvent of choice, considering its ability to scavenge the benzyl group of the carbamate and dissolve **1a**•**Li** (entry **4**). The exquisite reactivity of *N*-(fluorosulfonyl)carbamate was underlined by the reaction using TsNHCO₂Bn and its lithium salt instead of **1a** and **1a**•**Li**^{8,18a}, which gave no desired product (entry **5**). In the evaluation of substrate scope (*vide infra*), we noticed that byproducts **4** and **5** occasionally became

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obstacle for the isolation of the products. Accordingly, *tert*butyl carbamate **1b** (see Scheme 1b) was introduced as an alternative, which forms volatile isobutene as the byproduct. This traceless strategy worked equally well to give **2** in 76% yield by modifying the stoichiometry of the reagents (entry 6). At this stage, we also optimized an enantioselective oxyamination using a stoichiometric amount of a chiral organoiodine(III) reagent. By examining several lactate-based reagents developed by Fujita and Ishihara,²¹ we found out that the oxyamination with chiral reagent 7 furnished (4*S*,5*S*)-**2** in 72% yield and 93% ee (entry 7).²²

The *N*-fluorosulfonyl group of the carbamate reagent also plays a vital role in deprotection of the oxyaminated product (Scheme 1a), building on the labile sulfur—fluorine bond in protic media.²³ Acid hydrolysis of (4*S*,5*S*)-2 furnished the corresponding free amino alcohol in one step, which was isolated as N-Boc protected form 8 in 83% yield without erosion of its stereochemical integrity. Examination of the reaction solution revealed formation of sulfamic acid 9 as the intermediate. The carbamate reagent synthesis was also optimized to secure its availability on a large scale (Scheme 1b). The procedure is column chromatography free and routinely carried out on a 100 mmol scale in the lab, and carbamates 1 and lithium salts 1·Li are obtained in good yields as bench-stable, crystalline solids.

Transforming unactivated *trans-* and *cis*-alkenes to the corresponding β -amino alcohols with reliable regio- and diastereoselectivities is still a daunting challenge even in racemic fashion, although considerable progress has been achieved in both stoichiometric and catalytic racemic oxy-aminations.^{18,24} Accordingly, we initially evaluated the scope of stoichiometric oxyamination (Table 2), with a focus on difficult substrates for our catalytic oxyamination (*vide infra*).

Styrene, *o*- and *p*-methoxystyrenes reacted to afford 10-12in good yields and >95:5 regioselectivities. TBS-protected cinnamyl alcohol reacted to give amino diol 13 with perfect syn-stereospecificity. The oxyamination of a cinnamyl alcohol derivative with an α -chiral center took place from the congested side of the alkene to give all syn amino diol 14 with good diastereoselectivity. Acyclic aryl-substituted *cis*alkenes, which are prone to give a mixture of diastereomers in other oxyaminations,^{7d,18a,24a,d,k,n,v} were converted to 15 and 16 in moderate yields without compromising syn-stereospecificity (>95:5 dr). Indene was also a viable substrate to give 17 in good yield.

The oxyamination of a terminal aliphatic alkene provided **18** with electronically controlled regioselectivity, as in the case of vinylarenes, forging the C–N bond at the internal carbon. It is of note that, in preceding oxyaminations, deterioration or reversal of the regioselectivity is frequently observed by switching from aryl- to alkyl-substituted alkenes.^{18b,24b,h,v} Symmetrical, *trans-* and *cis-*aliphatic alkenes were also tolerated to give **19–21** in moderate yields. While unsymmetrical internal aliphatic alkenes present a challenge due to lack of a strong electronic and steric bias required for regioselective oxyamination,²⁵ *trans-* and *cis-*allylic silyl ethers underwent oxyamination to generate **22** and **23** with high regioselectivity and syn-stereospecificity. The oxyamination of a terminal diene also gave product **24** in moderate yield.²⁶

These substrates were then subjected to chiral organoiodine-(III)-mediated oxyamination (see Table 1, entry 7). Styrene, *p*methoxystyrene, TBS-protected cinnamyl alcohol, and 1,3nonadiene reacted to afford **10**, **11**, **13**, and **24** with high enantioselectivities. The reactions with *cis*-aryl alkenes and aliphatic alkenes, except for *cis*-aliphatic alkenes, led to moderate enantioselectivities.

We next shifted focus on our final goal of achieving an organoiodine(I/III)-catalyzed enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of alkenes (Table 3). By investigating catalyst structures, reaction conditions, and external oxidants (see the SI), we reached to a couple of principles to implement catalytic highly enantioselective oxyamination. Chiral organoiodine catalysts based on a 5-methylresorcinol core with $N_{,}N_{-}$ diisopropylamide side arms 25, introduced by Muñiz,^{12f} are indispensable to attain good turnover and high enantioselectivity. Catalyst 25a with pendant benzyl groups worked well for a broad range of alkenes, while methyl-substituted catalyst 25b performed better for ortho-substituted vinylarenes in terms of both the yield and ee.

The judicious choice of an oxidant depending on the electronic properties of vinylarenes is also an important factor. For electronically neutral and slightly electron-poor vinylarenes, magnesium monoperoxyphthalate hexahydrate (MMPP) was found to be optimal (Table 3a).²⁷ The conditions were applicable to halogenated (26–28), alkylated (29 and 30), oxygenated (31–33), and fused (34) vinylarenes with excellent enantioselectivities. Concomitantly, ring-opened byproducts were obtained in 10–15% yields with moderate ee (Table 3b). We have confirmed the byproducts could stem from vinylarenes via epoxidation and ring opening with 1a in the absence an organoiodine catalyst.^{12f} The observed moderate enantioselectivity implies hydrolysis of the reaction intermediate as the second pathway.^{10c}

As for electron-deficient or ortho-halogenated vinylarenes, the use of Selectfluor as an oxidant constantly gave the products in good yields and high enantioselectivities (Table 3c). Typical electron-withdrawing functionalities such as nitro, alkoxycarbonyl, cyano, acyl, trifluoromethyl, and sulfonyl groups were all tolerated as showcased in products 35, 38-43. The substitution pattern of the aromatic ring was examined with nitrostyrenes, generating 35-37 with excellent enantioselectivities. In the oxyamination of o-nitrostyrene, catalyst 25b was selected to give product 37 which contained a small amount of the regioisomer. The catalytic oxyamination with *trans-* and *cis-\beta*-methylstyrenes led to poor yields irrespective of the reaction conditions. Meanwhile, cinnamyl benzoates reacted to give 47-49 as a single diastereomer with high enantioselectivities using Selectfluor.^{12d} Catalytic enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of aliphatic alkenes is an unsolved challenge in synthetic organic chemistry.²⁸ Accordingly, we were delighted that the catalytic oxyamination using Selectfluor tolerated terminal aliphatic alkenes, giving 18, 50-54 having different functionalities in good yields and enantioselectivities over 80%.

Finally, we developed one-pot reactions that give unprotected amino alcohols straightforwardly (Scheme 2). By use of the stoichiometric oxyamination with $PhI(OAc)_2$, styrene was converted to (*rac*)-N-Boc-phenylglycinol **55** in 83% overall yield (eq 1). The catalytic enantioselective oxyamination/ deprotection sequence was implemented on 3 mmol scale using *p*-nitrostyrene to give **56** in 67% overall yield and 96% ee (eq 2).

In conclusion, we have realized the organoiodine(I/III)catalyzed, highly enantioselective intermolecular oxyamination of alkenes which generates enanitoenriched β -amino alcohols from aryl- and alkyl-substituted alkenes. A critical element in the successful achievement is the discovery of N-(fluorosulfonyl)carbamates as a new reagent in synthetic organic chemistry.²⁹

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/jacs.0c11440.

Detailed experimental procedures, characterization data, copies of ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹⁹F NMR spectra, and HPLC data (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 1963253, 1963807–1963808, and 2036171–2036172 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.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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