

Enantio- and Chemoselective Intramolecular Iridium-Catalyzed O-Allylation of Oximes

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Cite This: *Org. Lett.* 2021, 23, 2643–2647



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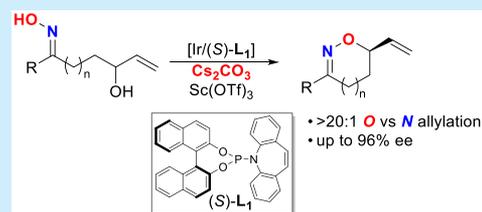


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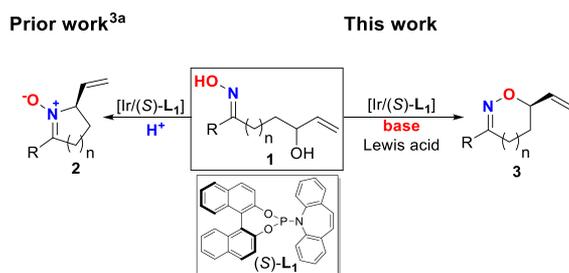
Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A method for the enantio- and chemoselective iridium-catalyzed O-allylation of oximes is described. Kinetic resolution in an intramolecular setting provides enantioenriched oxime ethers and aliphatic allylic alcohols. The synthetic potential of the products generated with this method is showcased by their elaboration into a series of heterocyclic compounds and the formal synthesis of glycoprotein GP IIB-IIIa receptor antagonist (–)-roxifiban. Preliminary mechanistic experiments and computational data shed light on the remarkable chemoselectivity of the reaction.



Transition-metal-catalyzed allylic substitution has emerged as a powerful tool for the enantioselective formation of carbon–carbon and carbon–heteroatom bonds.¹ Iridium-catalyzed reactions in particular have proven useful for the asymmetric synthesis of chiral building blocks due to a strong preference for branched allylation products.² In this area, we recently reported the iridium and Brønsted acid-catalyzed enantio- and chemoselective intramolecular N-allylation of oximes (Scheme 1).³ The method provides five-, six-, and

Scheme 1. Iridium-Catalyzed Intramolecular Allylation of Oximes



seven-membered cyclic nitrones **2** via the kinetic resolution of secondary allylic alcohols and proceeds with a remarkable selectivity for N-allylation. O-Allylated cyclic oxime ethers, which are important structural motifs in drug discovery and crop protection,⁴ were only observed as minor side products. However, procedures that enable chemodivergent O-allylation would stand to significantly improve the synthetic utility of enantioselective oxime allylation. Herein, we report the iridium-catalyzed chemoselective intramolecular O-allylation of oximes. Preliminary mechanistic studies were conducted to investigate this remarkable inversion of chemoselectivity.

Cyclic oxime ethers, particularly five-membered isoxazolines, have been highlighted as privileged structural motifs in

pharmaceuticals and pesticides.⁴ However, methodologies for the enantioselective synthesis of cyclic oxime ethers relying on transition-metal-catalyzed allylic substitution remain undeveloped.^{5–7} The groups of Du⁸ and Takemoto⁹ have reported enantioselective intermolecular O-allylation reactions to access acyclic oxime ethers using palladium and iridium catalysts, respectively. In 2019, You and co-workers documented a single example of the intramolecular iridium-catalyzed O-allylation of an oxime, which furnished a seven-membered 1,2,5-oxadiazepane product.¹⁰ Yet, a general enantioselective method that provides access to cyclic oxime ethers of various ring sizes remains elusive.

At the onset of the methodological studies described herein, we envisioned that the chemo- and enantioselective O-allylation of oximes in an intramolecular setting could provide a convenient approach for preparing cyclic oxime ethers of various ring sizes. In our previous report,^{3a} the chiral catalyst derived from [Ir(cod)Cl]₂ and the phosphoramidite-olefin ligand (S)-L₁ were combined with a Brønsted acid, cleanly converting oxime **1a** (Scheme 1, R = H and n = 2) to the corresponding six-membered nitron **2a** with complete chemoselectivity for N-allylation. Thus, a series of experiments aimed at identifying optimal conditions for selective O-allylation were conducted (see the Supporting Information). Gratifyingly, we found that in the presence of a base (Cs₂CO₃) and a Lewis acid (Sc(OTf)₃), the same iridium(I) catalyst ([Ir/(S)-L₁]) effected the conversion of the hydroxy oxime **1a** to the seven-membered oxime ether **3a** via kinetic resolution

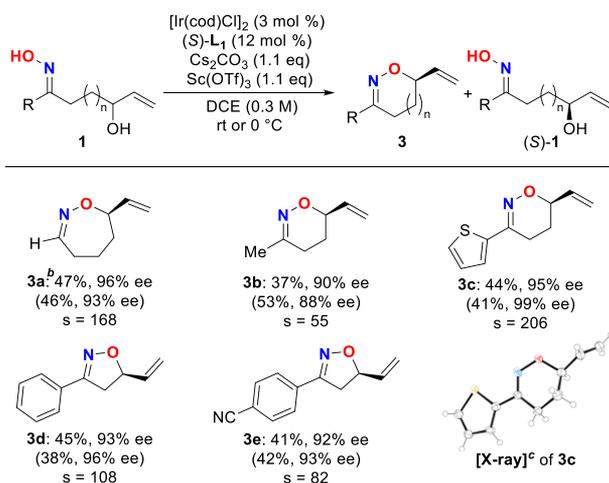
Received: February 16, 2021

Published: March 22, 2021



(47% yield, theoretical yield of 50%, 96% ee, Table 1). Under these conditions, the allylic alcohol **1a** was recovered in a 46%

Table 1. Substrate Scope of the Intramolecular *O*-Allylation of Oximes^a



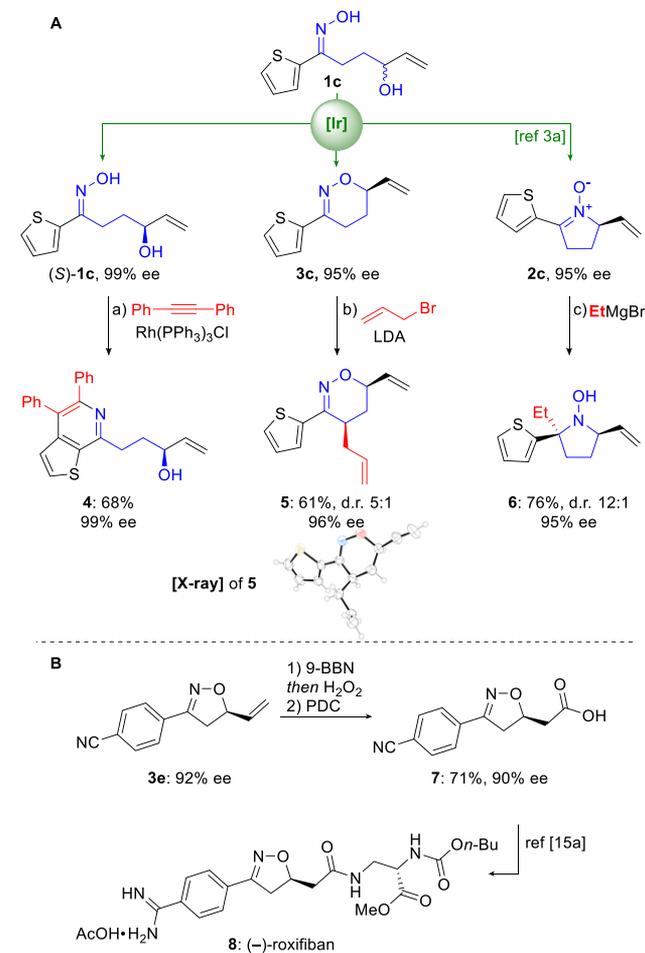
^aReactions were run on a 0.3 mmol scale. Numbers in parentheses refer to the amount of the recovered starting material **1**. Yields refer to isolated products after flash column chromatography. Enantiomeric excess values (ee) were determined by HPLC, SFC, or GC analysis on a chiral stationary phase. Selectivity factors (*s*) were calculated using Kagan's method.¹¹ ^bThe reaction was run at rt. ^cThermal ellipsoids are displayed at the 50% probability level.

yield and 93% ee. Notably, *N*-allylated nitron **2a** was not detected when using Brønsted basic reaction conditions.

Having established the conditions for the iridium-catalyzed chemoselective *O*-allylation of oximes, we next focused on the substrate scope (Table 1). The optimized reaction protocol allowed the facile preparation of six-membered dihydroxazine **3b** with complete *O*-selectivity. Similarly, 2-thienyl dihydroxazine **3c** was accessed in a 44% yield and 95% ee as a crystalline solid suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis. The enantiopure allylic alcohol (S)-**1c** (R = 2-thienyl and *n* = 1) was reisolated in a 41% yield. In addition to seven-membered oxazepane (**3a**) and six-membered oxazine (**3b** and **3c**) scaffolds, we examined the formation of five-membered isoxazolines. The optimized protocol for the *O*-allylation furnished **3d** in a 45% yield and 93% ee. Analogously, isoxazoline **3e** was accessed in a good yield and high enantiomeric purity (41% yield and 92% ee). Notably, the kinetic resolution described is highly efficient, with a calculated selectivity factors *s* > 50 for all substrates.¹¹

Next, we aimed to highlight the synthetic utility of the established protocols for the chemodivergent kinetic resolution of oximes that give rise to optically active cyclic oxime ethers, nitrones,^{3a} and aliphatic allylic alcohols. To this end, γ -hydroxy thienyl oxime **1c** was chosen as a starting point for the preparation of diverse enantioenriched building blocks (Scheme 2A). The rhodium-catalyzed and oxime-directed C–H activation¹² of enantioenriched (S)-**1c** furnished thienopyridine **4**, a promising motif in drug discovery,¹³ without any erosion of the optical purity. The lithiation of dihydroxazine **3c** and subsequent trapping with allyl bromide allowed the selective installation of an additional stereocenter (S),¹⁴ showcasing the applicability of the method for the synthesis of highly substituted heterocycles. Next, nitron **2c**

Scheme 2. Functionalization of Products Derived from Oxime **1c^a**

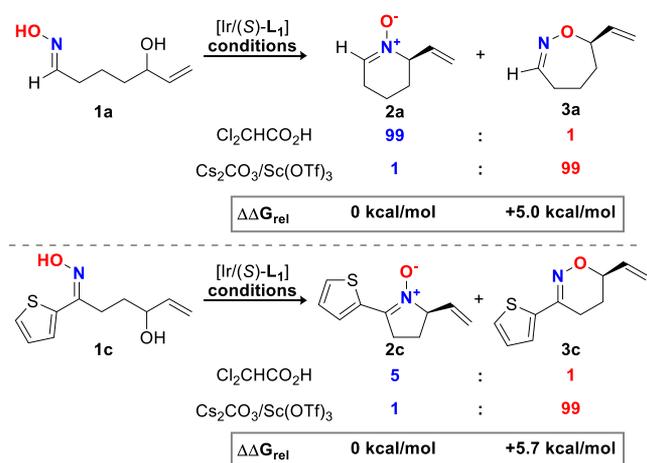


^aReagents and conditions are as follows: (a) Rh(PPh₃)₃Cl (3 mol %), diphenylacetylene, and toluene at 120 °C; (b) LDA and TMEDA, then allyl bromide and THF from –78 °C to rt; and (c) EtMgBr and THF from –78 °C to rt; LDA, lithium diisopropylamide.

was treated with EtMgBr at –78 °C to afford trisubstituted pyrrolidine **6** in a 95% ee and 12:1 dr. These experiments showcase that a series of structurally diverse enantioenriched products can be rapidly accessed starting from a single racemic compound (**1c**).

In addition, we sought to showcase the method in the context of target-oriented synthesis (Scheme 2B). We aimed for the formal synthesis of (–)-roxifiban (**8**), a glycoprotein GP IIb-IIIa receptor antagonist investigated in clinical trials by DuPont for the treatment of various cardiovascular ailments, including platelet adhesion.¹⁵ Enantioenriched isoxazoline **3e** was hydroborated and oxidized to the corresponding primary alcohol using 9-BBN and H₂O₂, respectively. Further oxidation with pyridinium dichromate (PDC) in anhydrous DMF cleanly afforded the carboxylic acid **7** in a 71% yield over two steps. Compound **7** was used previously by Olson and co-workers in their synthesis of (–)-roxifiban, thus completing the formal synthesis of **8**.^{15a}

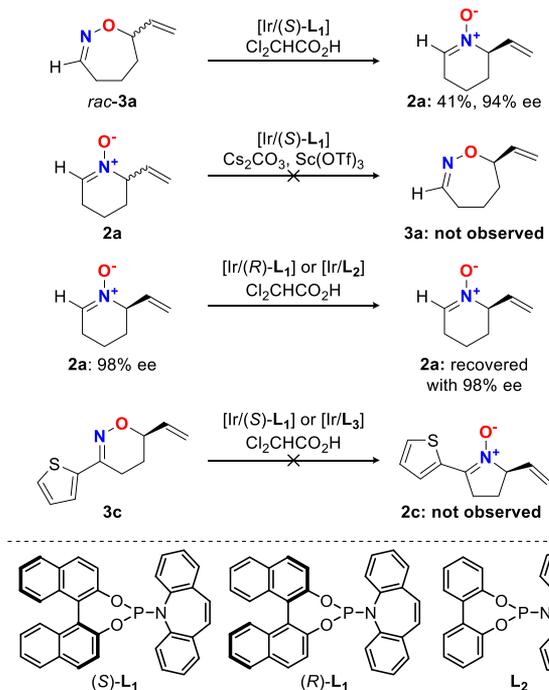
Over the course of this study we became interested in the origin of the remarkable chemoselectivity observed for both *N*- and *O*-alkylation reactions (Scheme 3). In particular, we wondered if the formation the cyclic nitrones or oxime ethers is governed by a thermodynamic bias and whether the size of

Scheme 3. Chemodivergent Allylation and Calculated Relative Energies^a

^a $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{rel}}$ values were calculated using DFT at the B3PW91/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory, see the Supporting Information for details.

the newly formed ring factors into this. The relative energies of two pairs of constitutionally isomeric nitrones and oxime ethers were calculated (2a/3a and 2c/3c, Scheme 3). Interestingly, density functional theory calculations at the B3PW91/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory revealed that the nitron products were thermodynamically favored over the oxime ethers by $\Delta\Delta G^0 = 5.0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ and $\Delta\Delta G^0 = 5.7 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$, respectively, regardless of ring size.^{16,17}

To probe whether the chemoselective formation of nitrone 2a may occur via a thermodynamic equilibration from 3a, we conducted a series of control experiments (Scheme 4). Subjecting racemic oxime ether 3a to the optimized reaction

Scheme 4. Control Experiments on *N*- or *O*-Allylation^a

^aReactions were set up according to general procedures; see Table 1 and the Supporting Information.

conditions for *N*-allylation afforded the corresponding nitrone 2a. This result demonstrates that C–O bond cleavage occurs for 3a in the presence of the iridium catalyst under acidic conditions. Control experiments indicated that both $\text{Cl}_2\text{CHCO}_2\text{H}$ and $[\text{Ir}/(\text{S})\text{-L}_1]$ were necessary for the conversion of 3a to 2a. Next, we investigated whether nitrone 2a undergoes reversible C–N bond cleavage. Subjecting 2a to the conditions optimized for *O*-allylation did not afford any detectable formation of oxime ether 3a. Treating 2a with $\text{Cl}_2\text{CHCO}_2\text{H}$ and the iridium catalysts derived from either (*R*)- L_1 , the enantiomeric ligand, or achiral L_2 did not lead to any erosion of optical purity even after prolonged reaction times (48 h). Collectively, these experiments indicate that C–N bond cleavage occurs under neither under basic nor acidic conditions. We postulate that while the *O*-alkylated product 3a may be formed under acidic conditions as the kinetic product, it can undergo C–O bond cleavage to afford the thermodynamically favored nitrone 2a. The formation of oxime ether 3a under basic conditions is kinetically favored as a consequence of deprotonation of the oxime–OH bond (the $\text{p}K_{\text{a}}$ of benzophenone oxime in water is ~ 11).¹⁸ However, our observations with 2a and 3a were not generalizable, as subjecting the six-membered oxime ether 3c to $\text{Cl}_2\text{CHCO}_2\text{H}/[\text{Ir}]$ did not lead to the formation of nitrone 2c. Hence, the six-membered oxime ether 3c cannot undergo thermodynamic equilibration, which explains the lower chemoselectivity observed in the formation of nitrone 2c despite a strong thermodynamic bias for *N*-allylation.

In conclusion, we have developed conditions for the highly enantio- and chemoselective intramolecular *O*-allylation of oximes. The method furnishes cyclic five-, six-, and seven-membered oxime ethers in a high enantiomeric purity. Combined with our earlier report on the chemoselective *N*-allylation of oximes, we have established conditions for the chemodivergent synthesis of cyclic oxime ethers and nitrones from the same oxime starting materials. Experimental and computational data suggest that for some substrates the *N*-allylation occurs via thermodynamic equilibration, whereas *O*-allylation proceeds under kinetic control. The synthetic utility of the method was shown by the functionalization of the cyclization products to give a diverse set of chiral building blocks and the enantioselective formal synthesis of glycoprotein GP IIB-IIIa receptor antagonist (–)-roxifiban.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.orglett.1c00559>.

General methods, experimental procedures, and spectral data (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 1995673 and 2001544 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the ETH Zürich and the Swiss National Science Foundation (200020_172516) for financial support. Simon L. Rössler (ETH Zürich) is thanked for carrying out the DFT calculations. We also thank Dr. N. Trapp (ETH Zürich) and M. Solar (ETH Zürich) for X-ray crystallographic analyses.

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