Asymmetric Electrophilic α-Amination of Silyl Enol Ether Derivatives via the Nitrosocarbonyl Hetero-ene Reaction

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The first example of a general asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction is described. The procedure uses a copper-catalyzed aerobic oxidation of a commercially available chiral nitrosocarbonyl precursor (EleNOr) and is operationally simple. The transformation is both high yielding and highly diastereoselective for a range of silyl enol ether derivatives. A variety of synthetically useful postfunctionalization reactions are presented along with a mechanistic rationale that can be used as a predictive model for future asymmetric reactions with nitrosocarbonyl intermediates.

The asymmetric construction of C–N bonds using in situ generated nitrosocarbonyl intermediates has recently experienced rapid development, particularly in the area of the nitrosocarbonyl aldol reaction.1,2 This emerging area of research has relied on the development of new, mild, and functional group compatible oxidation protocols of hydroxamic acids to gain access to highly reactive nitrosocarbonyl intermediates.3,4 While promising, these current strategies are limited to the use of activated compounds (β-ketoesters and aldehydes) where the stereodirecting group is placed on the backbone of the nucleophile using known chiral Lewis acids or chiral organocatalysts.5 Alternatively, placement of the chirality on the nitrosocarbonyl could allow access to a more general range of asymmetric transformations, including the use of nonactivated compounds (ketone and carboxylic acid derivatives) via the nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction (Scheme 1a).6b,e,7,3b

Silyl enol ethers and silyl ketene thioacetals are known to undergo asymmetric hetero-ene reactions with aldehydes.8,9 These are commonly referred to as the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, for which a prototropic or silatropic mechanism has been invoked. Silyl enol ethers derivatives bearing allylic hydrogens are known to proceed through a prototropic mechanism,8 and in their absence, the silatropic pathway becomes favored.8g6 Despite the significant potential, no asymmetric aza-variant using nitroso compounds has been developed. Herein we report an asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction with silyl enol ether derivatives (Scheme 1b).10

Nitrosobenzene is known to react with silyl enol ethers in a racemic fashion;11 however, attempts to render this process asymmetric result in the exclusive reaction on oxygen (α-oxygen).12 Given the prevalence of α-amino carbonyl compounds in medicinal chemistry and the broad synthetic utility of silyl enol ethers, we sought to develop an asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction. This strategy simultaneously enables the direct asymmetric formation of C–N bonds α to nonactivated carbonyl compounds5,13 and establishes a precedent for a general asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction. Moreover, as the nitro-
socarbonyl ene reaction is selective for C–N bond formation, this process does not suffer the same O- vs N-regioselectivity drawbacks as the nitrosocarbonyl aldol reaction.

Our experience with nitrosocarbonyl aldol and ene reactions, combined with the established regioselectivity of nitrosobenzene with trisubstituted olefins, led us to commence studies with the TMS-enol ether derived from cyclohexanone and a hydroxamic acid derived from Oppolzer’s sultam. To our gratification, we found that the running the reaction with 10 mol % of CuCl and 10 mol % of 2-ethylxoxazoline resulted in a nearly quantitative yield of the desired product with excellent diastereoselectivity (eq 1); see the Supporting Information for optimization studies). While the hetero-ene adduct (3) can be isolated in 69% yield and >95:5 dr (see the Supporting Information), a hydrolytic workup was used to aid in isolation and characterization of the product. Formation of the competitive O-regioisomer was not observed, which is in accord with the nitrosocarbonyl ene reaction.

Having established the optimized reaction conditions (10 mol % of CuCl, 10 mol % of EtOx, THF, rt), attention was then turned toward the scope of this transformation (Figure 1). Cyclic aliphatic silyl enol ethers, all possessing an E-enolate geometry, afford good yields and excellent diastereoselectivities (4, 7, and 8). To our gratification, the use of acyclic silyl enol ethers derived from 3-pentanone gave high yields and good diastereoselectivities regardless of the E/Z geometry (9 and 10). The use of the E-silyl enol ether (75:25 E/Z) afforded the desired product in a 75:25 diastereoselectivity, whereas the Z-silyl enol ether (80:20 E/Z) yielded the desired product with a 91:9 diastereoselectivity. Importantly, the products of these reactions were enriched in the same major diastereomer. An improved diastereoselectivity could be obtained with substrate 11, which can easily be accessed from the Z-silyl enol ether (5:95 E/Z). On the basis of these findings, we hypothesized that the reaction would be highly diastereoselective for aryl-derived Z-silyl enol ethers lacking the allylic hydrogen atom. Indeed, switching to the naphthyl-derived Z-silyl enol ether led to 12 in 86% yield and 91:9 dr. Moreover, a variety of substituted aryl Z-silyl enol ethers afforded good yields and diastereoselectivities (13–16). Notably, this transformation is also amenable to the use of heteroaromatic silyl enol ethers as well (17–19). In these cases, the 2-pyridyl substrate (17) gave a better yield of the desired product, while the 4-pyridyl substrate (18) was more diastereoselective. The lower yield for 18 was due to product instability. The furan substrate was well tolerated and afforded the desired product with excellent diastereoselectivity (19). Lastly, we explored the use of cyclic aromatic E-silyl enol ethers, which as expected lead to reduced diastereoselectivities, albeit with good isolated yields (20 and 21). These results suggest that Z-silyl enol ethers lacking an allylic hydrogen are critical for high selectivity, which is consistent with the nature of the proposed silatropic nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction (vide infra). It is worth noting that dehydration of the products to the α-imine is conceivable and known, but we did not observe the formation of this product.

Encouraged by these results and the mildness of the reaction conditions, we sought to expand on this reaction with the use silyl ketene thioacetals. Given that thioesters are readily amenable to a variety of postfunctionalization reactions, and the breadth of literature on forming their respective enolate geometries, their use here further broadens the synthetic utility of this approach. Analogous to the ketone substrates, it was found that this silylacetylene nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction was most favored with substrates bearing an E-enolate geometry (Figure 2). Of note, the reaction to form 28 was conducted on a 2 mmol scale. Importantly, the yield and diastereoselectivity for this reaction was not affected, which highlights the potential scalability of this process. In addition, it was discovered that 2 equiv of the nucleophile could be used to obtain products with high diastereoselectivity when a 1:1 mixture of E/Z silyl ketene thioacetals are used (29). This result provides an attractive solution to situations where access to the desired E-silyl ketene thioacetal is challenging. It is envisioned that these products can be used to access non-natural amino acid derivatives and their hydroxyamino analogues, such as D-Ala, D-Leu, D-Trp, D-Phe, and D-Val with high stereoinduction (>95:5 dr for 25–28 and 92:8 dr for 29). While N-hydroxyamino acid derivatives are relatively uncommon in nature, they are of great biological importance. For example, the availability of optically active N-hydroxyamino acids is of particular importance for the synthesis of N-hydroxyamines and siderophores, as well as amidine-forming ligation reactions.

With a broad substrate scope established, we next sought to develop a predictive model for the asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction. Analogous to the nitrosobenzene hetero-ene reaction with trisubstituted olefins, the asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction with silyl enol ethers...
follows the same enophilic regioselectivity for the twix position (Scheme 2).6b,7b,d,14a−e, For substrates with allylic hydrogens and an E-enolate geometry (4, 7−9), the twix selective prototropic pathway is favored because the nitrosocarbonyl adopts a Re-face skew approach toward the nucleophile, which minimizes steric interactions (path a). With the Z-enolate geometry, the twix position is now located at the oxygen atom bearing the TMS group (10 and 11), and the silatropic pathway becomes favored (path b). The nitrosocarbonyl still adopts the same skew trajectory toward the Re face of the nucleophile with minimized steric interactions and as such affords products with the same absolute stereochemistry.

To illustrate the synthetic utility of this methodology and demonstrate that the auxiliary can be removed, a series of postfunctionalization reactions were studied (Scheme 3).

**Figure 2.** Scope of the asymmetric nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction with silyl ketene thioacetal. All reactions were performed with 1 equiv of 2 and 1.5 equiv of 22. Yields are shown. dr is calculated by 1H NMR. 2 equiv of 22 was used. Etox = 2-ethyloxazoline.

**Scheme 2. Mechanism and Predictive Model**

and an E-enolate geometry (4, 7−9), the twix selective prototropic pathway is favored because the nitrosocarbonyl adopts a Re-face skew approach toward the nucleophile, which minimizes steric interactions (path a). With the Z-enolate geometry, the twix position is now located at the oxygen atom bearing the TMS group (10 and 11), and the silatropic pathway becomes favored (path b). The nitrosocarbonyl still adopts the same skew trajectory toward the Re face of the nucleophile with minimized steric interactions and as such affords products with the same absolute stereochemistry. For substrates lacking allylic hydrogens, a twix-selective silatropic pathway was found to be most favorable (12−29) and again was attributed to the minimized steric interactions of the Re-face skew approach of the nitrosocarbonyl (path c). The lower diastereoselectivities observed with substrates lacking allylic hydrogens (20 and 21) are attributed to increased steric interactions of a twin-selective silatropic pathway where the nitrosocarbonyl approaches the nucleophile with decreased facial bias (path d).

**Scheme 3. Transformations of α-Amino Carbonyls**

Enantiopure N-hydroxyoxazolidinone 30 could be obtained from 11 through a diastereoselective reduction using sodium borohydride. Chiral oxazolidinones are an important class of ligands in asymmetric catalysis27 and have interesting biological activity.28 Additionally, the N-hydroxyphenethylamine 31 can be obtained in one step using a hydrogenation of chiral α-amino ketone 13 in high yield and enantiopurity, with quantitative recovery of the sultam. Although not shown, the N−O bonds of the ketone derived products are also readily cleaved.29 Treatment of thioester 28 with NBS and MeOH affords the methyl ester 32 in high yield, without racemization. Finally, a two-step sequence can also be performed wherein N−O bond homolysis is followed by saponification, yielding 33.

In conclusion, a novel and highly diastereoselective nitrosocarbonyl hetero-ene reaction was demonstrated utilizing a mild aerobic oxidation of a chiral nitrosocarbonyl precursor that is commercially available. The reaction was applicable to a broad range of substrates to afford products in high yields with excellent diastereoselectivities. In addition, the reaction is completely N-selective. The array of functionalization possibilities and the predictive model, both described here in detail, render this a practical entry into a variety of previously inaccessible chiral hydroxylamines.

**ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

* Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.or-glett.5b02208.

Experimental procedures, characterization data, and 1H and 13C NMR spectra for all new compounds (PDF)

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**REFERENCES**


(7) The product derived from (Z)-silyl ketene thioacetal of 25 was isolated as a racemate.

(8) Note that the E/Z assignment to silyl ketene thioacetals is opposite that of silyl enol ethers due to the higher priority given to sulfur.

(9) For related work that was reported while our manuscript was under preparation, see: Ramakrishna, I.; Grandhi, G. S.; Sahoo, H.; Baidya, M. Chem. Commun. 2015, DOI: 10.1039/C5CC05459A.

(10) For recent asymmetric α-amination of nonactivated carbonyls, see: (a) Miles, D. H.; Guasch, J.; Toste, F. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 7632. (b) Yang, X.; Toste, F. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 3205.