Transition-metal free thiocyanooxygenation of functionalized

alkenes: facile routes to SCN-containing dihydrofurans and lactones

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General Information

All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen with the strict exclusion of air. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance III-400 in solvents as indicated. Chemical shift are reported in ppm from TMS with the solvent resonance as internal standard (CDCl₃: ¹H-NMR: $\delta = 7.26$; ¹³C-NMR: $\delta = 77.0$). IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer and only major peaks are reported in cm⁻¹. HRMS were obtained on a Q-TOF micro spectrometer.

Starting Materials

All of olefinic dicarbonyl compounds **1** were synthesized according to the literature.¹ 2-vinyl benzoic acids **4** were prepared by the direct Wittig olefination of the corresponding acids according to the reported procedure.² Benzyl alcohol **6** was prepared by the direct reduction of the corresponding acids according to the reported procedure.³ All the NMR spectroscopy were in full accordance with the data in the literatures.

Optimization of the reaction conditions of 4a and $2a^a$



Entry	Oxidant (equiv.)	Solvent	Yield ^{b} (%)
1	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	HOAc	98%
2	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	CH ₃ CN	44%
6	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	DCE	88%
7	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	EtOAc	n.r
3	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	DMF	n.r
8	$Na_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	HOAc	97%
9	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (1.5)	HOAc	89%
10	Oxone (1.5)	HOAc	90%
11	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	HOAc	80% ^c
12	$K_2S_2O_8(1.5)$	HOAc	$80\%^d$
16	$K_2S_2O_8(1.2)$	HOAc	91%
17	$K_2S_2O_8$ (2.0)	HOAc	80%
^{<i>a</i>} Reaction conditions: 4a (0.2	2 mmol, 1 equiv.), 2a (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.),	solvent (2 mL), oxidant (1.5 eq	uiv.), room temperature, 24 h,
under N2. b Yield of isolated	product. ^c NaSCN (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.) was	used. ^d NH ₄ SCN (0.4 mmol, 2	equiv.) was used.

Derivatization of products 5a

1. [3+2] Cycloaddtion of product 5a.4a



A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube was charged with $ZnCl_2$ (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and NaN₃ (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). A solution of **5a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in ^{*i*}PrOH (1 mL) was then injected into the tube by syringe. The resulting mixture was heated to 50 °C and stirred vigorously for 1.5 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc. The solvent was then removed under vacuo. After the usual workup, the desired thiotetrazole **6a** was isolated in 94% (60.9 mg) yield.



6a: White solid; R_f 0.1 (EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO): δ = 7.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.32 (m, 3H), 4.37 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO): δ = 168.9, 156.7, 150.5, 139.3, 134.6, 129.9, 128.9, 128.6, 125.0, 123.3, 88.2, 41.3; IR (KBr): v_{max} 1766 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₂KN₄O₂S [M+K]⁺ 363.0313, found 363.0313.

2. Acid hydrolysis of product 5a.4b



5a (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added slowly to a solution of 95% sulfuric acid (0.5 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 15h. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc. The solvent was then removed under vacuo. After the usual workup, the product 7a was isolated in 35% (20.9 mg) yield.



7a: Yellow Liquid; R_f 0.5 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:2); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.36 (s, 2H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 169.5, 167.1, 150.3, 139.0, 134.1, 129.5, 128.8, 128.7, 126.3, 125.4, 125.1, 123.1, 88.8, 39.4; IR (KBr): v_{max} 1766 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺ 322.0508, found 322.0504.

Investigation of the Reaction Mechanism



When 1.0 equiv of TEMPO was added to the reaction of **4a** with **2a** under the standard conditions, only trace amount of desired product **5a** was detected. The result indicates that the radical intermediate probably be involved in the catalytic cycle of the reaction.

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} Ph \\ \hline \\ OH \end{array} + KSCN \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} K_2S_2O_8 (1.5 \text{ equiv.}) \\ HOAc, \text{ rt} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} Ph \\ \hline \\ OH \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} SCN \\ OH \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} Ph \\ OH \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} OH \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 10, 49\% \end{array}$$

A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube was charged with 2-vinyl benzyl alcohol **8** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), KSCN (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). 2 mL of HOAc was injected by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction was quenched by the slow addition of a saturated solution of Na₂CO₃. After the usual workup, the cyclized product **9** was isolated in 35% (18.7 mg) yield along with the protonated product **10** in 49% (20.8 mg) yield. The result indicates that a carbocation intermediate is probably involved in this transformation.

1-Phenyl-1-thiocyanatomethyl-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran (9): Yellow liquid; R_f 0.4 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.31 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 141.9, 140.4, 139.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 128.0, 125.0, 122.1, 121.5, 112.9, 89.9, 72.8, 45.6; IR (KBr): v_{max} 2153, 1262, 1020 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NNaOS [M+Na]⁺ 290.0610, found 290.0606.



[2-(1-Phenylethyl)phenyl]methanol (10)²: Yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.39-7.23 (m, 6H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 3H), 4.70 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.50 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 146.3, 143.8, 138.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 127.3, 126.5, 126.1, 63.2, 40.0, 22.4.

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¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Products 3





7.437 7.349 7.349 7.332 7.274 7.274 7.279 7.219 7.159 7.159 7.159 7.159 7.090 000



Ph NCS 11 0 3c









































¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Products 5







170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 ppm

























































































 $< 1.524 \\ < 1.506$























