Decatungstate-Catalysed C(sp³)–H Azidation

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General Information

All reagents were purchased from the commercially available sources and used without further purification. All reactions were carried out in a vial with magnetic stirring. Irradiation of reactions was achieved using Kessil PR160L-390 or 370 lamps. All reactions were monitored by either ¹H NMR or thin layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on 0.25 mm pre-coated silia plates (F-254) purchased from Silicycle, Quebec, Canada, using shortwave UV light as visualizing agent and KMnO₄ or phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) as developing agents. Flash column chromatography was performed using SiliaFlash-P60 silica gel (40 – 63 µm) purchased from Silicycle, Quebec, Canada. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-600 spectrometers operating at 600 MHz for proton nuclei and 151 MHz for carbon were calibrated using residual undeuterated solvent as an internal reference (CDCl₃: 7.26 ppm ¹H NMR and 77.20 ppm ¹³C NMR). For reporting NMR peak multiplicities, the following abbreviations were used: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quin = quintet, hept = heptet, m = multiplet. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent UHPLC TOF mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization time-of-flight (ESI-TOF) or chemical ionization time-of-flight (CI-TOF) reflectron experiments.

CAUTION: Azides are potentially explosive compounds; Extreme caution is necessary and proper safety measures should be taken. (although we have not encountered any problem during the project) Organic azides with $(N_c + N_o)/N_N$ ratio more than 3 are normally stable and can be isolated and stored in pure form. Azides with $(N_c + N_o)/N_N$ less than 3 but more than 1 can be isolated but should be stored in fridge at no more than 1 M concentration and at a maximum of 5 grams of material. Azides with $(N_c + N_o)/N_N < 1$ should never be isolated, as they are very unstable and potentially explosive.

Experimental Section

General procedure for the TBADT-catalysed C–H azidation



Azidation substrate (1.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 4-acetamidobenzenesulfonyl azide (48 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and TBADT (6.64 mg, 0.002 mmol, 0.01 equiv) were loaded to a vial which was capped and then evacuated and backfilled with N₂ twice. Acetone (0.5 mL) was subsequently added to the mixture, sparged with N₂ balloon for 5 min and sealed with parafilm. The reaction was stirred under the irradiation of 390 nm LED light (Kessil PR160L-370, 5-10 cm from the reaction vial) for 20 h. Upon completion, the reaction was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo for column purification (100% hexane elution) to afford pure azidocyclooctane (**2a**).

Preparation of tetrabutylammonium decatungstate (TBADT)

TBADT was prepared according to the literature.¹

Preparation of sulfonyl azides

4-Acetamidobenzenesulfonyl azide (A) was purchased directly from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. 4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonyl azide (B), 4bromobenzenesulfonyl 4-methoxybenzenesulfonyl (D), azide (**C**), azide 4methylbenzenesulfonyl azide (E) were prepared according to the literature.²



Preparation of substrates



t-Butyl pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate³: To a CH₂Cl₂ solution (50 mL) of pyrrolidine (1.0 g, 14.06 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added Boc₂O (16.8 mL, 16.87 mmol, 1.2 equiv (1 M in THF)) and DMAP (342 mg, 2.8 mmol, 0.2 equiv) at 0 °C. The reaction was then allowed to warm to RT and stirred until the consumption of starting material as monitored by TLC. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo for column purification to afford pure t-Butyl pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate.



Isopentyl benzoate⁴: To a CH₂Cl₂ solution (30 mL) of 3-methylbutan-1-ol (1.0 g, 11.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added triethylamine (1.7 g, 16.95 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and DMAP (cat.). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C followed by the slow addition of benzoyl chloride (1.58 mL, 13.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and stirred at RT. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was washed with ammonium chloride, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo for column purification to afford pure isopentyl benzoate. *** The same procedure was followed for the synthesis of 5-methylbexan-2-yl benzoate, substituting 5-methylbexan-2-ol for an equal amount of 3-methylbutan-1-ol.**



2-Isopentylisoindoline-1,3-dione: To a DMF solution (20 mL) of phthalimite (1.17 g, 7.94 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (1.1 g, 7.94 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added 1-bromo-3-methylbutane (1 g, 6.62 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction was stirred vigorously at 55 °C. Upon completion, the reaction was diluted with diethyl ether, washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo for column purification to afford pure 2-Isopentylisoindoline-1,3-dione.



N-Phth-Memantine⁵: To a DMF (20 mL) solution of 3,5-Dimethyl-1-adamantanamine hydrochloride (1.4 g, 6.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added sodium hydride (260 mg, 10.8 mmol, 1.66 equiv) and stirred at RT for 20 min. Phthalic anhydride (1.44 g, 9.73 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was then added to the reaction and stirred at 155 °C. Upon completion, the reaction was cooled down to RT, diluted with diethyl ether, washed by water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo for column purification to afford pure *N*-Phth-Memantine.

Derivatization of Azide Products

To demonstrate the applications of azido compounds, the post-functional group modifications of **2d** were conducted. First, the reductive *tert*-butyloxycarbonylation of azide afforded *N*-Bocprotected adamantane **2r** in a 99% yield. Similarly, the treatment of **2d** with Zn/NH₄Cl generated 98% of the corresponding ammonium chloride salt **2s** as a stable amine building block. Finally, a copper-catalysed azide-alkyne 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition (CuAAC) with 4-bromobut-1-yne furnished 85% of triazole product **2t**, showing a convenient ligation strategy of simple hydrocarbons with various molecules.





To an ethanol (1 mL) solution of 1-azido-adamantane **2d** (35.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $Pd(OH)_2/C$ (2.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) and Boc_2O (87.3 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added Et_3SiH (46.5 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and the reaction was stirred at 55 °C for 20 h. Until completion, the reaction solution was filtered through the celite and concentrated for column purification to afford the pure *N*-Boc-protected **2r** (49.8 mg, 99%).



To a mixture of 1-azido-adamantane **2d** (35.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Zinc (15.6 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and NH₄Cl (26.8 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) was added ethanol (0.5 mL) and water (0.2 mL) then stirred at RT for 20 h. Until completion, the solution was directly concentrated for column purification to afford the pure ammonium salt **2s** (36.8 mg, 98%). * The addition of NH₃ solution follow by an extraction with H₂O would afford the free amine compound.



To a mixture of 1-azido-adamantane **2d** (35.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 4-bromobut-1-yne (26.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and copper iodide (1.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%) was added H₂O (0.5 mL) and *t*BuOH (0.2 mL) and stirred under air for 20 h. Until completion, the solution was extracted with H₂O, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo for column purification to afford the triazole product **2t** (52.7 mg, 85%).

Characterization of Azide Compounds

azidocyclooctane (2a)



15 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.56 (hept, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.92 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.65 (m, 4H), 1.63 – 1.44 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 62.4, 30.9, 27.4, 25.3, 23.3. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₈H₁₆N [M-N₂+H]⁺ 126.1277; Found 126.1279.

azidocycloheptane (2b)



8.6 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.52 (hept, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.96 – 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.72 – 1.51 (m, 8H), 1.48 – 1.38 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 62.8, 33.9, 28.0, 23.6. HRMS (APCI): calc'd for C₇H₁₄N₃ [M +H]⁺ 140.1182; Found 140.1182.

azidocyclotetradecane (2c)



17.1 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.51 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 1.73 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.55 – 1.27 (m, 20H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 59.3, 29.2, 24.1, 23.8, 23.5, 23.4, 21.4. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₄H₂₈N₃ [M +H]⁺ 238.2278; Found 238.2360.

(3s,5s,7s)-1-azidoadamantane (2d)



15.5 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.14 (br, 3H), 1.79 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 6H), 1.66 (dd, J = 12.4, 30.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 59.2, 41.7, 36.0, 30.0. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₀H₁₆N [M -N₂+H]⁺ 150.1277; Found 150.1277.

(1R,3S,5r,7r)-2-azidoadamantane (2d´)



4.7 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.80 (br, 1H), 1.99 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 4H), 1.91 – 1.80 (m, 4H), 1.76 – 1.69 (m, 4H), 1.57 – 1.52 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 66.6, 37.5, 36.8, 31.9, 31.7, 27.4, 27.1. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₀H₁₆N [M -N₂+H]⁺ 150.1277; Found 150.1278.

methyl (1r,3s,5R,7S)-3-azidoadamantane-1-carboxylate (2e)



30.1 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.28 (br, 2H), 1.93 (s, 2H), 1.87 – 1.75 (m, 8H), 1.66 – 1.61 (br, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 176.7, 59.0, 52.1, 43.2, 42.8, 40.8, 37.7, 35.0, 29.5. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₂H₁₈NO₂ [M -N₂+H]⁺ 208.1332; Found 208.1333.

(1r,3s,5R,7S)-1-azido-3-chloroadamantane (2f)



29.2 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.34 – 2.30 (br, 2H), 2.13 (s, 2H), 2.04 (q, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 4H), 1.74 (br, 4H), 1.62 – 1.53 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 66.5, 60.5, 51.2, 46.1, 39.9, 34.1, 31.9. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₀H₁₅ClN [M -N₂+H]⁺ 184.0888; Found 184.0889.

azidooctane isomeric mixture (2g)



5.3 mg; **HRMS (APCI):** calc'd for C₈H₁₈N [M+H]⁺ 128.1434; Found 128.1431.

azidododecane isomeric mixture (2h)



9.3 mg; **HRMS (APCI):** calc'd for $C_{12}H_{26}N [M-N_2+H]^+ 184.2060$; Found 184.2054.

tert-butyl 2-azidopyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (2i)



Crude ¹H NMR spectrum matches the reported literature and the yield was determined using trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.⁶ Note: This compound was unable to be isolated in a pure form and is known to decompose via column chromatography.

4-azidocyclohexan-1-one (2j)



10.9 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.98 – 3.90 (m, 1H), 2.60 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.13 – 2.00 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 209.3, 56.9, 37.7, 30.8. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₆H₉N₃O [M+H]⁺ 140.0818; Found 140.0818.

4-azidocycloheptan-1-one (2k)



15 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.73 – 3.65 (m, 1H), 2.72 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.54 – 2.36 (m, 3H), 2.04 – 1.90 (m, 3H), 1.89 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.71 – 1.60 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 213.0, 61.7, 43.3, 38.4, 34.8, 29.0, 19.4. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₇H₁₂NO [M-N₂+H]⁺ 126.0913; Found 126.0914.

3-azido-3-methylbutyl benzoate (2l)



15.9 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.06 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.44 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.7, 133.2, 130.3, 129.7, 128.6, 61.4, 60.4, 39.9, 26.5. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₂H₁₆NO₂ [M-N₂+H]⁺ 206.1176; Found 206.1174.

5-azido-5-methylhexan-2-yl benzoate (2m)

BzC

9.9 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 5.18 – 5.10 (m, 1H), 1.85 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.66 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.40 – 1.33 (m, 3H), 1.28 (s, 6H). ¹³C

NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.3, 133.0, 130.8, 129.7, 128.5, 71.6, 61.4, 37.2, 30.9, 26.2, 26.1, 20.3. **HRMS (APCI):** calc'd for C₁₄H₂₀NO₂ [M-N₂+H]⁺ 234.1489; Found 234.1488.

2-(3-azido-3-methylbutyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (2n)



11.4 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 3.79 – 3.74 (m, 2H), 1.86 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.35 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.3, 134.1, 132.3, 123.4, 60.3, 39.3, 33.9, 26.1. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₃H₁₅N₂O₂ [M-N₂+H]⁺ 231.1128; Found 231.1127.

(3aR,5aS,9aS,9bR)-8-azido-3a,5a,6,6,9a,9b-hexamethyldecahydronaphtho[2,1b]furan-2(1H)-one (2o)



25.6 mg; ¹H NMR (major isomer, 600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.60 (t, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.47 – 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.30 – 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 1.85 (m, 3H), 1.85 – 1.56 (m, 5H), 1.46 – 0.83 (m, 18H). ¹³C NMR (major isomer, 150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 176.2, 86.0, 58.8, 56.1, 54.0, 47.0, 44.6, 38.5, 37.1, 34.6, 33.1, 28.7, 21.7, 21.6, 20.3, 16.0. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₈H₃₀NO₂ [M-N₂+CH₃OH+H]⁺ 296.2220; Found 296.2220.

(3aR,5aS,9aS,9bR)-2-azido-3a,6,6,9a-tetramethyldodecahydronaphtho[2,1b]furan (2p)



19.4 mg; ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra match the reported literature as an isomeric mixture.⁶ **HRMS (APCI):** calc'd for $C_{16}H_{28}NO [M-N_2+H]^+$ 250.2165; Found 250.2164.

2-((1r,3s,5R,7S)-3-azido-5,7-dimethyladamantan-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (2q)



12.6 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 2H), 2.14 (s, 4H), 1.58 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 2H), 1.29 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.17 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.6, 134.1, 131.9, 122.9, 61.9, 60.8, 49.2, 46.6, 45.0, 42.8, 34.0, 29.6. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₂₀H₂₃N₂O₂ [M-N₂+H]⁺ 323.1754; Found 323.1752.

tert-butyl (3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-ylcarbamate (2r)



49.8 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.36 (br, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 6H), 1.63 (s, 6H), 1.40 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.2, 78.7, 50.5, 42.0, 36.5, 29.6, 28.6. HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₅H₂₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 252.1951; Found 252.1958.

(3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-amine hydrochloride salt (2s)



36.8 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.05 (br, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 6H), 1.67 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 53.1, 40.7, 35.5, 29.1. HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₀H₁₈N [M-Cl]⁺ 152.1434; Found 152.1426.

1-((3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-yl)-4-(2-bromoethyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole (2t)



52.7 mg; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.27 - 2.19 (m, 9H), 1.82 - 1.73 (m, 6H). HRMS (APCl): calc'd for C₁₄H₂₁BrN₃ [M+H]⁺ 312.0893; Found 312.0880.

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NMR Spectra of Azide Compounds

¹H NMR spectrum of **2a** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR spectrum of **2b** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)



 ^1H NMR spectrum of 2c (600 MHz, CDCl_3)













¹H NMR spectrum of **2f** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)







^1H NMR spectrum of 2j (600 MHz, CDCl_3)



¹H NMR spectrum of **2k** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)









¹H NMR spectrum of **2o** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR spectrum of **2p** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR spectrum of **2q** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)









