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Intermolecular Rhodium(II)-Catalyzed Allylic C(sp3)-H Amination of Cyclic Enamides

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Abstract. The intermolecular Rh(II)-catalyzed $C(sp^3)$ –H amination of enamides gives access to new 4-aminopiperidine derivatives that are useful building blocks in medicinal chemistry. This efficient transformation proceeds at room temperature with complete regio- and chemoselectivity in favor of the allylic $C(sp^3)$ –H bond, and has a broad functional group tolerance. In addition, the matched combination of the chiral Rh₂(*S*-nta)₄ (nta = (S)-N-1,8-naphthoylalanine) with an optically pure (*S*)-sulfonimidamide allows isolation of allylic amines with excellent stereocontrol.

Keywords: Allylic amination; Enamide; Heterocycle; Nitrene; Rhodium catalysis

Introduction

The ubiquity of nitrogen in life and material sciences is a source of inspiration for the design of selective C–N bond forming reactions. Significant achievements have been made to this end through the discovery of new processes for the direct amination of C(sp³)–H bonds.^[1] Particularly, the recent development of transition metal-catalyzed nitrene C(sp³)–H insertion reactions^[2] has culminated in the design of efficient methods that make catalytic C–H amination now a standard tool in the total synthesis of complex molecules.^[3]

Catalytic allylic C(sp³)–H amination raises the issue of chemoselectivity because metallanitrenes are well known to add to alkenes to afford the corresponding aziridines.^[2-4] Several solutions have first arisen from the use of tethered reagents that allow for delivering the metal-bound nitrene species in an intramolecular manner with high level of chemoselectivity. The development of fine-tuned Rh,^[5] Ru,^[6] Fe,^[7] Co,^[8] Ag,^[9] and Mn^[10] complexes has proved fruitful to

favor the functionalization of the allylic position. However, the corresponding intermolecular reaction is, by comparison, much more difficult to achieve. The first examples of efficient intermolecular chemoselective allylic C(sp³)–H amination reactions have been recently reported following the careful precursors of nitrene design and metal complexes,^{[11],[12]} and these results demonstrate the need for further investigation to extend their scope.



Figure 1. Background for the study.

Another issue to address with catalytic $C(sp^3)$ -H amination reactions is their application to nitrogen heterocycles. Hyperconjugative effects, particularly, are responsible for the higher reactivity of $C(sp^3)$ -H bonds α - to the nitrogen,^[13] thereby making the remote functionalization of other sites difficult to perform, though efficient solutions have been reported.^[14] We have recently demonstrated that catalytic nitrene transfers enable the regioselective intermolecular oxyamidation of various π -bonds.^[15] Specifically, the application of rhodium-catalyzed nitrene additions^[16] to enamides and enecarbamates affords oxyaminated products in high yields, that can be further transformed via the nucleophilic displacement of the resulting N,O-acetals (Figure 1a).^[15b] However, while exploring the scope of the reaction, a different reactivity has been uncovered for C2- or C3-substituted enamides.^[17] Herein, we report a novel access to 4-aminopiperidines.^[18] a privileged medicinal chemistry motif in (i.e. aminobenzoquinolizine) resulting from a catalytic allylic $C(sp^3)$ –H amination (Figure 1b).

Results and Discussion

Previous studies have shown that the use of the TcesNH₂ (2,2,2-Trichloroethoxysulfonamide)/ $Rh_2(esp)_2$ (esp: $\alpha, \alpha, \alpha', \alpha'$ -tetramethyl-1,3-benzenedipropionate) system in the presence of olefins always affords products resulting from addition to the π -bond.^[15,16] However, application to 2-phenyl-enamide 1a^[19] of the reaction conditions previously established for enamide oxyamidation led us to observe a complete switch in the chemoselectivity of the reaction (Table 1). Thus, instead of isolating the product resulting from functionalization of the π -bond, we isolated the allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H aminated derivative 2a as the sole compound. No trace of the corresponding oxyamidated derivative 3a was observed on the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture. The high and unusual chemoselectivity of the transformation prompted us to undertake a systematic study as the Rh-catalyzed intermolecular allylic $C(sp^3)-H$ amination of enamide would afford a readily efficient access to relevant 1,3 diamino motifs. A rapid screening of the oxidants and their equivalents (Table 1, entries 1-3), the catalysts and their loading (entries 4-7), the solvents (entries 8-12) and the nitrene source (entry 13) in the presence of compound 1a revealed that the best yield was obtained by using TcesNH₂ (1.5 equiv) as the nitrene source, in the presence of Rh₂(esp)₂ (2 mol%) and PhI(OPiv)₂ (2 equiv) in toluene at room temperature (entry 1). Under these conditions, the corresponding allylic aminated enamide 2a was isolated in 90% yield after 2 hours of reaction. Amination of toluene was observed as a side reaction when Rh₂(OAc)₄ was used as the catalyst (entry 5).^[20] No side reaction via the formation of the oxyamidated compound 3a was observed in the presence of MeOH as a solvent (entries 11-12).^[15b] By using TsNH₂ as the nitrene source, no reaction

occurred (entry 13). Control experiments showed no reactivity in the absence of catalyst or oxidant.

Table 1. Catalytic allylic C(sp³)-H amination of 1a.^[a]

PhSO ₂ 1a	RNH ₂ c PhI(OR Solver	(1.5 equiv) atalyst) ₂ (2 equiv) nt, RT, 2h PhSC	IHTces D2 D2 D2 D2 D2 PhSO2 D2 D2 D2 D2 D2 D2 D2 D2 D2 D	, NHTces , OR [^] Ph <i>ved)</i>
Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant	Solvent	Yield ^[b]
1	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv) ₂	Toluene	90%
2	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OAc) ₂	Toluene	88 %
3°	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	Toluene	70 %
4 ^d	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	Toluene	73 %
5 ^e	Rh ₂ (OAc) ₄	PhI(OPiv)2	Toluene	0 %
6 ^d	Cu(OTf) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	Toluene	0%
7 ^f	Cu ₂ O, phenantroline	PhI(OPiv) ₂	Toluene	0 %
8	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	$(CH_2Cl)_2$	45 %
9	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	CH ₃ CN	0 %
10	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	CH_2Cl_2	85 %
11	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	CCl ₄ /MeOH (1:1)	81 %
12 ^g	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv)2	CCl ₄ /MeOH(1:1)	85 %
13 ^h	Rh ₂ (esp) ₂	PhI(OPiv) ₂	Toluene	0%

^[a] Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out using: **1a** (0.17 mmol), TcesNH₂ (0.25 mmol), Rh₂(esp)₂ (2 mol%), PhI(OPiv)₂ (0.33 mmol) in toluene (2 ml) at rt for 2h. ^[b] Isolated yield. ^[c] 1 equiv. of oxidant was used. ^[d] 1 mol% of catalyst was used. ^[e] The compound of C(sp³)-H amination of toluene was isolated as the sole side product. ^[f] 1 mol% of catalyst and 2 mol% of ligand were used. ^[g] Reaction conducted at 0 °C. ^[h] TsNH₂ (1.5 equiv) was used as the nitrene source.

The optimized reaction conditions for $C(sp^3)$ -H amination were then applied to various C2-substituted 2). $^{[19,21]}$ The (Table enamides 1a-p high chemoselectivity for allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H amination over oxyamidation was confirmed in each case. The expected allylic amines were isolated with yields of up to 90%. The reaction tolerates the presence of electrondonating or electron-withdrawing groups on the aromatic ring, the corresponding products having been isolated with yields in the 35-82% range (2b-h). It is worth mentioning that yields are intertwined with the electronic properties of the aryl substituents; the lowest yields being observed for electron-withdrawing substituents (2e-h). Given the prevalence of heterocycles in medicinal chemistry, we also evaluated the tolerance of this method to enamide bearing fused aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system at C2, such as a naphtalene (1i), a benzothiophene (1j), an indole (1k), or a benzofuran (11). The bias of enamides 1j-l toward allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H amination vs. oxyamidation persisted, and no product arising from the competitive functionalization of the heterocyclic double bond was detected.^[15a] This result showcases the potential application of this method to late stage diversification of biologically active compounds. An interesting result was also obtained starting from the enol phosphate 1m. The product resulting from the $C(sp^3)$ -H amination reaction was hydrolyzed in situ to the corresponding 4-aminopiperidin-2-one **2m**, which be advantageously used further could for functionalization. Finally, envnes 2n and 2o, or enamide bearing an ester function (2p), which could serve as valuable synthetic intermediates, were tolerated.

Table 2. Rh catalyzed allylic $C(sp^3)$ –H amination of C2-substituted enamides 1.^[a]



^[a] Isolated yield. ^[b] 3 equiv. of substrate was employed.

These results then prompted us to extend the scope of the $C(sp^3)$ -H amination reaction toward C3susbtituted enamides 1q-w (Table 3).[22] Successful amination at the allylic position of 1q-v was performed optimized conditions afford under to the corresponding new 4-amino-substituted enamides 2qv with complete chemoselectivity and good yields. We did not detect the formation of the corresponding oxyamidated compound 3. Both electron-donating (2r) and electron-withdrawing (2s-u) functional groups were tolerated. As observed above, the electronic nature of aryl substituents directly impacts the reactivity of the adjacent allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H bond; electron-rich arenes provide the highest yields.^[23] This trend was confirmed with dienamide 1v. The presence of an electron-withdrawing substituent (i.e ester group) onto the dienamide reduces the reactivity of the proximal C(sp³)-H. Low yields observed in some cases were considered to be due to the instability of product **2** under the oxidative reaction conditions. It is worth mentioning that degradation was observed starting from C2-alkyl enamides.

Table 3. Rh catalyzed allylic $C(sp^3)$ –H amination of C3-substituted enamides.^[a]



^[a] Isolated yield. ^[b] Chemoselectivity determined by crude ¹H NMR. ^[c] PhI(OAc)₂ or PhI(OPiv)₂ was used, see Supporting Information.

These results then prompted us to extend the scope of the $C(sp^3)$ -H amination reaction toward C3susbtituted enamides 1q-w (Table 3).^[22] Successful amination at the allylic position of 1q-v was performed optimized conditions to afford under the corresponding new 4-amino-substituted enamides 2qv with complete chemoselectivity and good yields. We did not detect the formation of the corresponding oxyamidated compound 3. Both electron-donating (2r) and electron-withdrawing (2s-u) functional groups were tolerated. As observed above, the electronic nature of aryl substituents directly impacts the reactivity of the adjacent allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H bond; electron-rich arenes provide the highest yields.^[23] This trend was confirmed with dienamide **1v**. The presence of an electron-withdrawing substituent (i.e ester group) onto the dienamide reduces the reactivity of the proximal $C(sp^3)$ -H. Low yields observed in some cases were considered to be due to the instability of product 2 under the oxidative reaction conditions. Moreover, these C3-substituted compounds also permitted us to assess the influence of the N-protecting group on the chemoselectivity of this process. Thus, allylic amination was observed starting from the N-(sulfonyl) dienamide 1v whereas use of the (pnitrobenzyl) endo-dienamide **1w** led to a complete switch of reactivity. Allylic amination was thus disfavored in presence of the enamide 1w, although C3-substituted, but electronically deactivated. The oxyamidated product **3w** was isolated in 87% yield as the sole product with a complete diastereoselectivity in

favor of the *cis* isomer.^[24] It is also noteworthy that no reaction occurred with 2,3-disubstituted enamide, probably due to steric hindrance.^[25]

Table 4. Diastereoselective Rh-catalyzed $C(sp^3)$ -H amination of enamides 1.^[a]



^[a] Isolated yield.



Figure 2. X-ray structure of 5a.

The chemoselectivity observed for the allylic C(sp3)-H amination of enamides convinced us to consider whether we could also reach the same selectivity with conditions previously reported the the for stereoselective amination of hydrocarbons.[11b-d] This $C(sp^3)$ -H functionalization reaction involves the combination of the chiral rhodium complex Rh₂(S nta_4 (*nta* = (S)-N-1,8-naphthoylalanine) with an optically pure chiral nitrene precursor, *i.e.* the (S)-sulfonimidamide 4 (Table 4).^[26] This matched pair of reagents has been shown to promote the amination of benzylic and allylic substrates as well as that of alkanes, enol ethers and terpenes with high yields and excellent stereocontrol. If successful with enamides, it should give access to optically pure heterocyclic structures. Pleasingly, in presence of the (S)-

sulfonimidamide **4** and the chiral complex $Rh_2(S-nta)_4$, the 2-phenylenamide **1a** led exclusively to the chiral allylic amide **5a** isolated in 90% yield as the single (*R*)isomer by analogy with our previous studies.^[11b,26] Notably, the X-ray crystal structure of **5a** confirmed the stereochemistry of the 4-amino enamides **5** (Figure 2).^[27] The 4-amino enamides **5c**, **5i**, **5k**, and **5m** were subsequently obtained with yields in the 64-93% range as single diastereoisomers. It is worth mentioning that **5m** thereby offers the possibility of performing further functionalization.^[28] However, contrary to what was observed in Table 3 using the TcesNH₂/Rh₂(esp)₂ system, no reaction occurred starting from C3substituted enamides, because the stereoselective $C(sp^3)$ –H amination with sulfonimidamides is sensitive to steric hindrance as observed in our previous studies.^[11b,c]

Conclusion

In summary, we have demonstrated that the chemoselectivity of catalytic nitrene additions can be tuned by the substitution of the alkene in the case of cyclic enamides. Thus, the presence of a C2- or a C3substituent prevents the nitrene transfer from proceeding at the double bond, and the enamides undergo an intermolecular rhodium-catalyzed allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H amination to afford the corresponding amines with yields of up to 90%. This result underscores the ability of the sulfamate/Rh₂(esp)₂ system to react preferentially with allylic $C(sp^3)$ -H bonds in an intermolecular process affording new C4aminated enamides under mild conditions. Excellent reactivity and diastereoselectivity were also observed using a combination of the (S)-sulfonimidamide 4 and the chiral rhodium catalyst $(Rh_2(S-nta)_4)$. This reaction paves the way to the synthesis of complex biologically active molecules and/or for late stage diversification. Further investigations on expanding the scope and applications of this method are underway in our laboratory.

Experimental Section

General procedure for C4-aminated enamides 2.

In an oven-dried sealable tube, enamide 1 (0.17 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in dry toluene (2 mL). TcesNH₂ (57 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Rh₂(esp)₂ (3 mg, 0.0034 mmol, 0.02 equiv), and PhI(OPiv)₂ (138 mg, 0.34 mmol, 2 equiv) were successively added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After completion of the reaction, the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford the C4-aminated enamide **2**.

General procedure for C4-aminated enamides 5.

In an oven-dried sealable tube, enamide 1 (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), $Rh_2(S-nta)_4$ (5 mg, 0.004 mmol, 0.02 equiv), (-)-*N*-(*p*-toluenesulfonyl)-*p*-toluenesulfonimidamide 4 (78 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and 4Å molecular sieves (100 mg) were successively added, the tube was capped with rubber

septum then purged three times with argon. 1,1,2,2tetrachloroethane (0.75 mL) and methanol (0.25 mL) were added under argon. The tube was cooled to -78° C and bis(*tert*-butylcarbonyloxy)iodobenzene (114 mg, 0.28 mmol, 1.4 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred at -35°C for 3 days. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent to give the desired product **5** isolated as unique diastereoisomer (>99:1).

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- [24] The stereochemistry was unambiguously established by NMR 1D and 2D (see Supporting Information).
- [25] Molecular orbital coefficients of C2-Ph substituted enamide 1a, C3-Ph substituted enamide 1q and nonsubstituted enamide were obtained by DFT computations (see the Supporting Information), but they did not allow to rationalize the selectivity.

- [26] Our previous studies have shown that both chiral reagents are needed to secure good yields and stereocontrol. Moreover, the synthesis of known enantiopure amines and several X-ray crystallographic studies of various allylic products have demonstrated that (*R*)-enantiomers of the C-H aminated compounds are obtained by combining the (*S*)-sulfonimidamide with the (*S*)-rhodium complex. See: ref. 11b. (a) C. Liang, F. Robert-Peillard, C. Fruit, P. Müller, R. H. Dodd, P. Dauban, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 4641-4644. (b) M. Mazurais, C. Lescot, P. Retailleau, P. Dauban, Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2014, 66-79.
- [27] CCDC 1584973 (**5a**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. This data is provided free of charge by the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.
- [28] a) X.-H. Hu, X.-F. Yang, T.-P. Loh, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2015**, *54*, 15535-15539 and references cited herein;
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FULL PAPER

Intermolecular Rhodium(II)-Catalyzed Allylic C(sp3)-H Amination of Cyclic Enamides

Adv. Synth. Catal. Year, Volume, Page – Page

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