

Application of Thio-Ugi Adducts for the Preparation of Benzo[b]thiophene and S‑Heterocycle Library via Copper Catalyzed Intramolecular C−S Bond Formation

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S Supporting Information

[AB](#page-7-0)STRACT: [Fused heteroc](#page-7-0)ycles, such as $benzo[b]$ thiophene, thiochroman, benzo[b][1,4]thiazine, and 1,4-benzothiazepine were generated from thio-Ugi adducts containing a thioamide group through copper-catalyzed intramolecular C−S bond formation under microwave irradiation.

KEYWORDS: thio-Ugi, copper, benzothiophene, thiochroman, benzothiazine, benzothiazepine

ENTRODUCTION

Various strategies have been harnessed to quickly and efficiently achieve the construction of chemical libraries for drug discovery. Among them, multicomponent reactions (MCRs) play a pivotal role in solution phase synthesis to easily and quickly generate a large number of compounds using simple starting materials.¹ The merits have driven many research groups to devise entirely novel MCRs. However, the accumulated MCRs released t[o](#page-7-0) date are not enough to fill chemical space with peculiar and unconventional compounds, which emphasizes the difficulty in designing new MCRs. Therefore, to complement existing MCRs, variations of them and either further transformations², or pairing strategies⁴ after conducting MCRs have been continuously reported.

The Ugi reaction is a four-components reaction that incorporates an aldehyde or ketone, an isocyanide, an amine and a carboxylic acid or thioacid.⁵ Generally, the Ugi adduct obtained from the reaction is more popular as the substrate for rendering new scaffolds beca[us](#page-8-0)e they could not be easily accessed from other routes in many cases. Diverse heterocycles have been generated via the adducts in combination with either classical protocols² or transition metal catalyzed reactions.³

Synthetic efforts toward the synthesis of heterocycles via intramolecular C[−](#page-7-0)S bond formation, emerged by develop[m](#page-8-0)ent of catalysts and ligands, have mainly focused on thiazoles fused with aryls, such as benzene, $3b$,6 pyridine, $6b$ pyrimidine, 7 pyridazine,⁸ and pyrazine.⁹ As far as we know, application of the transformation is rare with ot[her](#page-8-0) heterocy[cle](#page-8-0)s containin[g](#page-8-0) a sulfur [ato](#page-8-0)m and even with the prominent bicyclic core

Figure 1. Examples of bioactive molecules containing benzo $[b]$ thiophenes.

 $\frac{b}{b}$ thiophene found in biologically active compounds (Figure 1).10 For the purpose of library production, we envisioned that the Ugi adducts 5 containing a thioamide could be e[leg](#page-8-0)ant substrates for the study of intramolecular C−S coupling reactions to produce the fused heterocyclic compounds 8−11 (Scheme 1). In this report, we will discuss the synthesis of these heterocycles.

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Scheme 1. Synthetic Strategy for Heterocycles from Thio-Ugi Adducts

■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Initially, we conducted Ugi reactions in methanol and identified that there were two other products 6^{11} and 7 with the desired product 5a; the two byproducts had not been reported in papers pertinent to thio-Ugi synth[esis](#page-8-0) (Table 1).^{2b,e,h,3b} By substitution of methanol with 2,2,2-trifluororoethanol (TFE), the yield of 5a significantly increased while that [of th](#page-7-0)[e](#page-8-0) two byproducts declined. A more acidic character of TFE than methanol seemed to drive the formation of the adduct. We speculated that water emanating from imine formation could be responsible for the undesired products and partly succeeded in reducing them with drying agents.^{3a,12} But we did not use MgSO4, because it did not always afford positive results in yields with other amines. Also, the is[olatio](#page-8-0)n of Ugi adducts in the absence of $MgSO_4$ was more convenient when the product precipitated in the reaction mixture.

The C−S bond formation from 5a was achieved without the aid of transition metals, such as palladium or copper, as reported

Table 2. Optimization for C-S Bond Formation^a

8b

^aReaction conditions: 5 (0.4 mmol), base (2 equiv). ^bIsolated yield. ^cTHF (4.75 mL) and water (0.25 mL).

by Liu et al.^{6f} Interestingly, we obtained the desired product with only Cs_2CO_3 (Table 2, entry 1). However, when implementin[g t](#page-8-0)he Cs_2CO_3 conditions with other substrates, the yield of 8 was not satisfactory [de](#page-1-0)spite prolonged reaction times. Therefore, we changed the model compound 5a to 5b which was almost unreactive under the Cs_2CO_3 conditions (Table 2, entry 2). Addition of copper iodide and 1,10-phenanthroline (1,10-phen) was effective in completing the reaction (Table [2](#page-1-0), entry 6). To reduce the reaction time, microwave irradiation (MW) was introduced, which tends to give better yields in [a](#page-1-0) shorter time than conventional heating. It is noteworthy that while microwave heating afforded no benefits with only THF (Table 2, entry 7), the addition of water to the THF resulted in excellent yields (Table 2, entry 8).

A ra[ng](#page-1-0)e of amines 1, two types of isocyanides 2 and thioacids 3, as well as various al[de](#page-1-0)hydes 4 were used to prepare thio-Ugi adducts 5, which were subsequently transformed into fused cyclic derivatives 8−11. The confirmation of thio-Ugi adducts synthesized with thiobenzoic acid $3{1}$ was accomplished by NMR and LC/MS. However, structure elucidation of adducts from thioacetic acid 3{2} was difficult using NMR spectra due to the restricted C−N amide bond.^{2c} Thus, purity and structural identification of the adducts were confirmed by LC/MS. Compared to the known yields of Ugi adducts with carboxylic acid, those of thio-Ugi adducts 5 with thioacids 3 tended to be lower. Although a limited number of thio-Ugi adducts 5 were prepared, we observed some evidence from the results (Tables 3 and 4) suggesting that the yields of thio-Ugi 5 are affected by both electronic and steric effects. The bar graphs are atta[ch](#page-3-0)ed [to](#page-5-0) illustrate and help with understanding the trends at a glance (Figure 3). Figure 3a and 3b show that amines bearing electron donating groups (EDG) are better than those with electron wit[hd](#page-6-0)rawing [gr](#page-6-0)oups [\(E](#page-6-0)WG), and also that alkyl amines are superior to aryl amines which is in accord with the former conclusion. From Figure 3c, it is clear that steric factors are closely related to the production of Ugi adducts.

With these thio-Ugi substrates in hand, we set [out](#page-6-0) to prepare $\frac{b}{b}$ thiophenes 8 under the optimized condition described above (Table 3). During the process, no negative events arose and the yields of 8 were good to moderate. When the thio-Ugi adduct 5af [ob](#page-3-0)tained from an optically pure amino ester $4\{16\}$ was used, two inseparable (silica gel chromatography) tautomers 8af and 8ag were observed. However, the optical

Table 3. Synthesis of Thio-Ugi Adducts and Their Corresponding Heterocycles

Table 3. continued

a
Reaction conditions: $1\{1\}$ (3 mmol), $2\{2\}$ (1 equiv), $3\{1\}$ (1 equiv), $4\{1\}$ (1 equiv), and solvent (6 mL) at 25 °C. ^bIsolated yield. ^cReaction conditions: 5 (0.4 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (2 equiv), CuI (20 mol %), 1,10-phenanthroline (20 mol %) and solvent (THF/water, $v/v = 95:5$) under microwave irradiation at 100 °C. dC_5_2CO_3 (4 equiv), CuI (40 mol %), 1,10-phenanthroline (40 mol %).

purity of 8af could be determined by HPLC using a chiral column (Scheme 2), verifying that a little racemization had occurred. Thiochroman 9a was also produced but we failed to eliminate the byp[ro](#page-6-0)duct suspected to be 2H-thiochromene, which would be derived from oxidation of the product.

Next, we turned our attention to the construction of thiazines 10 and thiazepine 11 (Table 4). The yields of thio-Ugi adducts for condensed thiazine 10 was inferior compared to the thio-Ugi for 8 and 9 because o-bro[mo](#page-5-0)aniline creates a more sterically hindered circumstance. Also, we were unable to synthesize 5bd and 5be which use an aldehyde with an EWG group, revealing that the electronic nature of the imine should be adjusted for the successful formation of Ugi adducts. Unfortunately, due to the failure of imine formation between $1\{11\}$ and $4\{17\}$, we were also unable to synthesize 5bm. Under identical conditions to those used for the fused benzo $[b]$ thiophenes 8, the starting materials for the synthesis of thiazine remained except for 5ba. The problem was simply solved by increasing the amount of CuI and the ligand. When $R^1(10d, 10g, 10h, 10j, 10k)$ consisted of alkyl groups that were less bulky than aromatics, the corresponding products existed as a mixture of E and Z stereoisomers whereas the other products contained only the Z-isomer (10a, 10c, 10e, 10f, 10i, 10l).

For the synthesis of thiazepines 11, adding more catalyst and ligand was ineffective in improving yields, although the starting materials were consumed. Attempts to develop better conditions ended in failure. Additionally, the reaction did not proceed with 5bp possessing a benzoyl moiety. Eventually, we applied the conditions used for the benzo $[b]$ thiophenes 8. 5bq and 5br, respectively, gave an enamine tautomer 11a and imine form 11b confirmed by NMR (Table 4, entries 17 and 18). The difference in the number of sp³-hybridized carbons between 11a (or 11b) and their correspondi[ng](#page-5-0) tautomer, and coupling patterns of $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR in 11b permitted the determination of the structure. Finally, the attempts to produce 8-membered rings were disappointing (Table 4, entry 19).

Only two commercial isocyanides were used for producing the heterocycles. Instead of [in](#page-5-0)troducing a variety of isocyanides in the first step for Ugi adducts, deprotection of tert-butyl group of the benzo $[b]$ thiophene 8b was carried out with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) to make the primary arylamine that could be further diversified with electrophiles (Scheme 3). However, the obtained product was the amide 12 which we had not expected.¹³ Hydrolysis of the amide 12 under th[e b](#page-7-0)asic conditions gave the desired product 14. In the literature, we found another conditi[on](#page-8-0)

Table 4. Synthesis of Thio-Ugi Adducts and Their Corresponding Heterocycles

Table 4. continued

No	Ugi adducts ^{a,b}	Products ^{b,c}	No	Ugi adducts ^{a,b}	Products ^{b,c}	No	Ugi adducts ^{a,b}	Products ^{b,c}
19	Ŝ. Br							
	$5\{3,1,2,19\}$, 5bs 62%	$\overline{}$						

a
Reaction conditions: 1{1} (3 mmol), 2{2} (1 equiv), 3{1} (1 equiv), 4{1} (1 equiv), and solvent (6 mL) at 25 °C. ^bIsolated yield. ^cReaction conditions: 5 (0.4 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (2 equiv), CuI (20 mol %), 1,10-phenanthroline (20 mol %), and solvent (THF/water, $v/v = 95:5$) under microwave irradiation at 100 °C. d Reaction conditions: 5 (0.4 mmol), $C_{s_2}CO_3$ (4 equiv), CuI (40 mol %), 1,10-phenanthroline (40 mol %), and solvent (THF/water, $v/v = 95:5$) under microwave irradiation at 100 °C. ^eRatio determined by ¹H NMR analysis. ⁸15% Ugi adducts recovered.
^h42% Ugi adducts recovered. ¹53% Ugi adducts recovered. ^{198%} Ugi adducts 42% Ugi adducts recovered. ¹53% Ugi adducts recovered. ¹28% Ugi adducts recovered. ^k20% Ugi adducts recovered.

Figure 3. Comparisons of thio-Ugi Adducts' yields.

^aReaction conditions: 5 (0.4 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (2 equiv), CuI (20 mol %), 1,10-phenanthroline (20 mol %), and solvent (THF/ water, $v/v = 95:5$) under microwave irradiation at 100 °C.

for N-de-tert-butylation using BF_3 complex but it also gave the corresponding amide 13. 2g

■ CONCLUSION

In summary, we have described the synthesis of fused heterocycles by intramolecularly creating a C−S bond between thioamides generated from an Ugi reaction and aryl halides.

Furthermore, in the preparation of thio-Ugi adducts, electronic and steric effects on the reaction efficiency were briefly discussed. Biologically important derivatives of benzo $[b]$ thiophenes, $\frac{b}{2}[1,4]$ thiazines and thiochroman were successfully synthesized in two synthetic steps in good to excellent yields but 1,4-benzothiazepines were obtained in low yields. Although we employed inexpensive copper(I) iodide and a ligand for the C−S bond formation, it is necessary to seek better catalysts and ligands because constructing rings larger than five-membered rings requires high loading of catalysts and ligands.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

General Procedure for Preparation of Thio-Ugi **Adducts 5.** The aldehyde $1\{1\}$ (3 mmol) was added to the amine $4\{1\}$ (1 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for the imine formation for 1−2 h. Then, TFE (6 mL), the isocyanide $2\{1\}$ (1 equiv) and the thio acid $3\{1\}$ (1 equiv) was added slowly to the reaction mixture and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. Water was added to the crude mixture, and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was dried over $MgSO₄$ and filtered. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with an ethyl acetate/hexanes mixture as eluents to give thio-Ugi adducts $5{1,1,1,1}$, 5a (63%): White solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.62–7.52 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20−7.14 (m, 3H), 7.12−7.04 $(m, 3H)$, 5.86 (s, 1H), 5.20–4.54 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.09, 173.62, 136.96, 135.91, 135.86, 133.05, 131.45, 130.23, 129.93, 128.49, 128.45, 128.44, 127.61, 127.50, 127.36, 125.50, 76.67, 56.94, 55.81, 27.16; LC/MS (ESI) m/z 495 [M + H]⁺. .

General Procedure for Preparation of Benzo[b] thiophene 8 and S-Heterocycles 9–11. K₃PO₄ (2 quiv), CuI (20 mol %), and 1,10-phenanthroline (20 mol %) was added to a stirred solution of Ugi adduct $5\{1,1,1,2\}$ (0.40 mmol) in 4.75 mL of THF and 0.25 mL of H_2O (THF/ $H_2O =$ 95:5, $v:$ The reaction mixture was subjected to microwave heating (100 °C) for 1 h and then the reaction mixture were concentrated under reduced pressure. Water was added to the

Scheme 3. N-De-tert-butylation of 8b

crude mixture, and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate and hexanes as eluents to give the desired products $8\{1,1,1,2\}$, $8b$ (94%): Pale yellow solid; mp 140−141 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), $7.35 - 7.29$ (m, 6H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 5.1, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.68 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 1H), 0.92 (s, 9H); 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 172.30, 146.59, 136.75, 135.52, 135.32, 133.91, 131.20, 130.11, 129.21, 128.73, 127.35, 126.91, 125.10, 121.95, 121.27, 117.07, 110.96, 51.92, 50.19, 28.89; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{26}CN_2OS$ $[M + H]^+$ 449.1449, found 449.1449.

(Z)-(2-(tert-Butylimino)-3-phenyl-2H-benzo[b][1,4]thiazin-4(3H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone 10a: Isolated yield, 64%; colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.20− 7.13 (m, 3H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.71 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR $(126 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$ δ 169.97, 152.27, 136.80, 136.61, 134.81, 130.82, 129.13, 128.44, 128.19, 128.10, 127.45, 127.03, 126.90, 126.85, 126.02, 125.77, 62.15, 57.21, 28.98; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{25}H_{25}N_{2}OS$ [M + H]⁺ 401.1682, found 401.1683.

1-(2-(tert-Butylamino)-3-phenylbenzo[f][1,4]thiazepin-4(5H)-yl)ethan-1-one 11a: Isolated yield, 28%; pale yellow oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (dd, J = 15.3, 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.26−7.18 (m, 2H), 7.17−7.09 (m, 2H), 5.84−5.54 (m, 1H), 4.12 (s, 1H), 4.07−3.85 (m, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.67, 146.70, 136.13, 135.52, 131.21, 129.28, 129.19, 129.03, 127.49, 126.83, 126.56, 126.11, 122.48, 53.83, 46.91, 31.31, 21.48; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}N_2OS$ $[M + H]^+$ 353.1682, found 353.1682.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

6 Supporting Information

Experimental procedures and $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR data and spectra for products 5−14. The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acscombsci.5b00034.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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