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A new entry for the oxidation of fluoroalkyl-substituted methanol derivatives: Scope and limitation of the organoiodine(V) reagent-catalyzed oxidation

such as Dess–Martin, PDC, and Swern oxidation.

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1. Introduction

Incorporation of fluorine atom(s) into organic molecules often changes their structure, stability, reactivity, and biological activity, and thereby frequently leads to the discovery of novel and potent applications in various domains from liquid crystalline materials to biologically active substances, peptide isosteres or enzyme inhibitors [\[1–7\].](#page-4-0) Consequently, the development of novel and convenient synthetic methods for the preparation of fluorinecontaining materials has been becoming more and more important in fluorine chemistry [\[8–14\].](#page-4-0)

Among various types of fluoroorganic molecules, fluoroalkylated ketones 1 have been well known as one of the most fundamental and valuable synthetic fluorinated units because of their great utility as an electrophile, and considerable studies on the preparation of 1 have been reported thus far [\[15–17\].](#page-4-0)

The oxidation of fluoroalkyl-substituted methanol derivatives 2 to the corresponding ketones 1 would be one of the most attractive transformations in fluorine chemistry because the alcohols 2 can be easily prepared from numerous methods, such as the reductive coupling of commercially available fluoroalkyl halides 3 and various aldehydes [\[18,19\]](#page-4-0), fluoride-catalyzed nucleophilic addition of RfSiMe₃ 4 with various aldehydes $[20-22]$, and so on $[23-$ [25\]](#page-4-0) ([Fig.](#page-1-0) 1). However, it has been well recognized that the oxidation of the alcohols 2 is not trivial because they are significantly resistant to be oxidized due to a strongly electronwithdrawing effect of a fluoroalkyl group [\[26,27\]](#page-5-0).

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Oxidation of various fluoroalkyl-substituted methanol derivatives under the influence of a catalytic amount of sodium 2-iodobenzenesulfonate and Oxone^{Φ} in CH₃CN or CH₃NO₂ was investigated in detail. The efficiency of the newly developed oxidation was also evaluated by comparison to other oxidations,

> Therefore, very powerful oxidizing reagents, such as Dess– Martin periodinane 5 [\[28\]](#page-5-0) or chromium reagents 6 and 7 [\[29\]](#page-5-0), can be generally employed for the oxidation of such molecules in fluorine chemistry [\[30–33\]](#page-5-0) ([Fig.](#page-1-0) 2). From the viewpoint of safety, environmental load, and cost, however, more efficient as well as more practical oxidation methods have been highly required.

> In this article we wish to disclose our recent studies on the hypervalent iodine-catalyzed oxidation [\[34–38\]](#page-5-0) of fluorinated alcohols by using sodium 2-iodobenzenesulfonate (8) and Oxone[®] $(2KHSO₅·KHSO₄·K₂SO₄)$, especially emphasizing scope and limitation of this oxidation, compared with other oxidation systems, such as Dess–Martin, PDC, and Swern oxidations.

2. Results and discussion

Initial studies focused on the oxidation of 2,2,2-trifluorophenethyl alcohol $(2a: R = Ph)$ under the influence of a catalytic amount of sodium 2-iodobenzenesulfonate (8) and Oxone[®] (2KHSO₅·KHSO₄·K₂SO₄). Thus, treatment of **2a** with 0.6 equiv. of Oxone[®] in the presence of 1 mol% of **8** in CH₃CN at 70 °C for 3 h gave the corresponding ketone 1a in 39%, together with 55% recovery of the starting material ([Table](#page-1-0) 1, entry 1). Prolonged reaction time resulted in the increase of the yield up to 54% (entry 3). The increase of the catalysis loading (entry 4) and higher temperature (entry 5) led to satisfactory results, the ketone 1a being obtained in up to 68% yield. Additionally, a significant improvement of the yield was observed when 0.9 equiv. of Oxone[®] was employed (entry 6). Further investigation on the catalysis

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Fig. 1. Retrosynthesis of fluoroalkylated ketones 1.

loading (entry 7) as well as the reaction time (entry 8) enabled us to afford the ketone 1a in 97% yield.

This result encouraged us to investigate the oxidation of 1,1,1 trifluoroundecan-2-ol (2b: $R = n - C_9H_{19}$) under the same reaction conditions as described in entry 8. Unfortunately, the desired ketone 1b was obtained in only 38% yield, and the starting alcohol was recovered in 48% yield (entry 9). Then, we reinvestigated the reaction conditions for the substrate 2b. While the prolonged reaction time did not lead to a dramatic change in the yield (entry 10), changing the solvent from $CH₃CN$ to $CH₃NO₂$ appreciably affected the yield (entry 11). Finally, the reaction at 110° C proceeded very smoothly to give the desired ketone 1b in excellent yield (entries 12 and 13). With the optimum reaction conditions in hand, we next examined the oxidation of various types of fluorinated alcohols. The results are collected in [Table](#page-2-0) 2.

As shown in entries 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, the alcohols having an electron-donating group (MeO) as well as an electron-withdrawing group (Cl, NO_2 , CF_3) on the benzene ring could participate very well in the oxidation, though isolated yields are very low in several cases due to the high volatility of the products. In the oxidation of the alcohols 2i having a nitro group on the benzene ring, only the desired ketone 1i could be easily isolated in high yield by silica gel column chromatography though ¹⁹F NMR analysis of the reaction mixture revealed that the ketone 1i as well as the corresponding hydrate 9i were formed in a ratio of 1:1 (entry 8). Additionally, the position of the substituent on the benzene ring did not influence the reaction at all as described in entries 2–4 and entries 5–7. The trifluoromethylated allylic alcohol 2l and propargylic alcohols 2m and 2n could be oxidized very smoothly to afford the corresponding ketones 1l, 1m, and 1n in high to excellent yields (entries 11– 13). As also described in Table 1, the trifluoromethylated alcohols 2b, 2o-r, having an aliphatic side chain, underwent a very smooth oxidation under the severe reaction conditions, such as 10 mol% of $8/CH_3NO_2/110 °C/24$ h, compared with that for 2,2,2-trifluorophenethyl alcohol derivatives (entries 14–18).

We also investigated the oxidation of the alcohols having various fluoroalkyl groups. As shown in entries 19–26, changing the fluoroalkyl group from trifluoromethyl group to nonafluorobutyl, pentafluoroethyl, and difluoromethyl groups did not cause a significant influence in the reaction, the desired ketones 1s-z being obtained in excellent yields. Additionally, α, α ,-difluoro- β -hydroxyesters 2aa and 2ab could also participate in the oxidation very well to give the corresponding 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds 1aa and 1ab (entries 27 and 28). Similarly, the oxidation of 2,2,3,3-tetrafluoro-1,4diol derivative 2ac took place very smoothly to afford the corresponding 1,4-dicarbonyl compound 1ac in high yield (entry 29).

In this way, the newly developed oxidation was found to be much more effective for various types of fluorinated alcohols.

Fig. 2. Various oxidizing reagents.

^a Bath temperature

.

b Determined by ¹⁹F NMR. Values in parentheses are of isolated yield.

 c Low yields were due to the high volatility of the products.

Table 2

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The oxidation of various types of fluorinated alcohols.

Rf R OH **⁸**(5 mol%), Oxone® (0.9 eq.), CH3CN, 90 °C, 18 h (Method A) Rf R O Rf R HO OH **2 1 9** + C F2 Ph F2 C O **1ac** or **8** (10 mol%), Oxone® (0.9 eq.), CH3NO2, 110 °C, 24 h (Method B)

^a Determined by ¹⁹F NMR. Values in parentheses are of isolated yield.
^b The references for known compounds are litted.

 $\frac{b}{c}$ The references for known compounds are listed.

 $\frac{c}{d}$ Low yields were due to the high volatility of the products.

The reason that the isolated yield was higher than the one determined by ¹⁹F NMR is because the hydrate was converted into the ketone during the silica gel column chromatography.

The reaction was carried out for 24 h.

^f Ten mol% of pre-IBS was used.

^g The product, 1ac was obtained.

^h The reaction was carried out using 20 mol% of pre-IBS and 1.8 equiv. of Oxone[®].

According to the literature, oxidation of 2a, 2b, 2m, and 2aa under the influence of 3.7 equiv. of Dess-Martin periodinane 5 in CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature for 3 h gives the corresponding ketones 1a, 1b, 1m, and 1aa in 76%, 93%, 90%, and 85%, respectively (Scheme 1, Eqs. $(1)-(4)$ [\[39\].](#page-5-0) These facts indicate that the present oxidation is comparable to Dess–Martin oxidation.

In order to prove the great utility of the present oxidation, we also examined PDC or Swern oxidation for some of fluorinated alcohols [\[54a–d\]](#page-5-0) [\(Table](#page-3-0) 3).

O

Ph

In the case of the oxidation of the alcohols having an aryl group as R, both PDC as well as Swern oxidation proceeded very smoothly to give the corresponding ketone 1 as well as hydrate 9 in high to

Scheme 1. Oxidation of various fluorinated alcohols with Dess-Martin periodinane 5.

Table 3

PDC and Swern oxidation of various types of fluorinated alcohols.

^a Determined by ¹⁹F NMR.

excellent yields (entries 1–5, 10). On the other hand, PDC oxidation of the allylic alcohol 2l and the propargylic alcohols 2m, 2n took place very sluggishly to give the desired ketones 1l, 1m, and 1n in very low yields (entries 6–8). In these cases, not only the corresponding hydrates were not obtained, but also the starting alcohols were not recovered at all. In sharp contrast to the PDC oxidation, Swern oxidation of 2l and 2m afforded the corresponding ketones in excellent yields (entries 6 and 7), while 2n did not lead to the satisfactory result (entry 8). Furthermore, the fluorinated alcohols having an alkyl group as R were found to be less reactive under the PDC as well as Swern oxidation conditions, the starting alcohols being recovered in 30–40% (entries 9 and 11).

Finally, we attempted the hypervalent iodine(V)-catalyzed oxidation in a large scale (Scheme 2). Thus, 5.16 g of 1-(4 methoxyphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethanol (2c, 25.1 mmol), 13.8 g of Oxone[®] (22.5 mmol), and 0.41 g of **8** (1.25 mmol) were dissolved in CH₃CN, and the whole was heated at 90 \degree C for 18 h. After the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, the whole was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give 4.61 g (22.6 mmol) of the corresponding ketone 1c in 90% yield. In this way, the scale-up did not influence for the reaction efficiency at all.

In summary, we have demonstrated the hypervalent iodine(V) catalyzed oxidation for various types of fluoroalkylated alcohols, compared with Dess–Martin, PDC and Swern oxidation. As a result, it was revealed that the newly developed oxidation could be applied for almost all types of fluorinated alcohols, and it was comparable to Dess–Martin oxidation, while PDC and Swern oxidation could not be employed for allylic, propargylic alcohols as well as the alcohols having an aliphatic side chain as R. Additionally, the present oxidation could be applied for a largescale reaction without any decrease of the reaction efficiency.

The present oxidation also has much more advantages, like safety, environmental load-reducing and inexpensive system, very

Scheme 2. A catalytic oxidation in a large scale.

mild reaction conditions, easy workup, commercial availability of the reagents, and so on.

In this way, we have established very efficient and practical oxidation method for various types of fluorinated alcohols, which may be employed in a laboratory as well as an industry.

3. Experimental

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with a JEOL JNM-AL400 (399.65 MHz for ¹H and 100.40 MHz for 13 C) spectrometer in a chloroform-d $(CDCI₃)$ solution with tetramethylsilane as an internal reference. A JEOL JNM-AL400 (376.05 MHz) was used to measure ¹⁹F NMR spectra in CDCl₃ using CFCl₃ as an internal standard. Infrared spectra (IR) were taken on a Jasco FT/IR-4100type A spectrometer as film on a NaCl plate. High resolution mass spectra were taken with a JEOL JMS-700 MS spectrometer. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (Wako gel C-200) and TLC analysis was performed on silica gel TLC plates (Merck, Silica gel 60 F_{254}).

All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon. Anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF) were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. All chemicals were of reagent grade and, if necessary, were purified in the usual manner prior to use.

3.1. Preparation of sodium 2-iodobenzenesulfonate (8)

To a stirred suspension of 2-aminobenzenesulfonic acid (5.0 g, 28.9 mmol) and crushed-ice (20 g) in concentrated HCl (10 mL) was added NaNO2 (2.09 g, 30.3 mmol) in water (20 mL) slowly at 0 °C, and the whole was stirred for 20–30 min at below 5 °C. (Immediate precipitation of the diazonium salt was observed.) A solution of NaI (4.76 g, 31.8 mmol) in water (20 mL) was then added slowly with stirring at 0° C. After the addition was complete, stirring was continued at 0 \degree C for 1 h, at room temperature for 1 h, and at 50 \degree C for 12 h to remove all N2. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, then concentrated in vacuo. The residue was recrystallized by distilled water, and thus obtained solid was washed with cold EtOH and Et2O to afford the desired sodium 2 iodobenzenesulfonate $H₂O$ (6.10 g, 18.8 mmol, 65%).

3.2. Preparation of the fluorinated alcohols 2

Typical procedure: a mixture of 10-undecenal (1.68 g, 10 mmol) and CF_3SiMe_3 (1.71 g, 1.9 mL, 12 mmol) in 15 mL of THF, which was cooled to 0 \degree C, was treated with 1 M THF solution of TBAF (15 mol%, 15 mL, 1.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was brought to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The resulting silyloxy compound was then hydrolyzed with aqueous HCl. Then, the mixture was extracted with ether $(15 \text{ mL} \times 3)$, dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: hexane/ EtOAc = 7/1) to give 1,1,1-trifluoro-11-dodecen-2-ol $(2r)$ (1.77 g, 7.43 mmol, 74%).

2r: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.30–1.38 (m, 12H), 1.53–1.71 (m, 2H), 2.04 (q, $J = 7.10$ Hz, 2H), 2.32 (br s, 1H), 3.84–3.94 (m, 1H), 4.93 $(dm, J = 9.99 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (ddt, J = 16.78, 1.40, 1.40 Hz, 1H), 5.81$ (ddt, J = 16.78, 9.99, 6.39 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 25.23, 29.22, 29.40, 29.52, 29.67, 29.68, 29.90, 70.86 (q, J = 30.86 Hz), 114.48, 125.56 (q, J = 281.02 Hz), 126.96, 139.53; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, CFCl₃) δ -80.55 (d, J = 7.10 Hz, 3F); IR (neat) 3376, 3078, 2928, 2857, 1641, 1466, 1392, 1279, 1172, 994, 910, 847, 723, 695 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) Calcd for (M^+) C₁₂H₂₁F₃O 238.1544, Found 238.1544.

3.3. 1,1,1-Trifluoro-4-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-3-methylbutan-2-ol (2q)

Yield: 95% (d.r. *ca*. 56:44) ¹H NMR δ 0.85 and 0.92 (d, J = 6.79 and d, $J = 6.79$ Hz, 3H), 1.20 (s, 9H), 2.00–2.15 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.95 (m, 3H), 3.62-3.77 (m, 1H), 6.99 and 7.01 (d, $J = 2.40$ Hz and d, $J = 2.60$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 and 7.22 (d, $J = 2.40$ Hz and d, $J = 2.60$ Hz, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, CCl₃F) δ -76.33 and -75.55 (d, J = 4.14 Hz, and d, $J = 4.14$ Hz, 3F); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃) δ 13.24 and 15.62, 31.69 and 31.70, 34.70 and 36.42, 35.17 and 37.46, 39.75, 71.68 and 74.15 (q, $J = 29.48$ Hz and q, $J = 29.22$ Hz), 125.63 and 125.82, 125.85 and 125.87 (q, J = 282.96 Hz and q, J = 282.96 Hz), 129.07 and 129.37, 136.69 and 136.74, 149.41 and 149.64; IR (neat) 3348, 2964, 2871, $1911, 1800, 1710, 1662, 1516, 1464, 1364, 1271, 1166$ cm⁻¹; HRMS (FAB+), Calcd for C₁₅H₂₁F₃O (M+): 274.1544, Found 274.1552.

3.4. Typical procedure for the hypervalent iodine(V)-catalyzed oxidation

Method A: a mixture of 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethanol (2c) (0.206 g, 1.0 mmol) and sodium 2-iodobenzenesulfonate (8) (as monohydrate, 0.016 g, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%), powdered Oxone[®] (0.554 g, 0.9 mmol) in CH₃CN (5 mL) was stirred at 90 \degree C under the atmosphere of air. After stirring for 18 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered, being successively washed with ethyl acetate. The combined filtrates were washed with water (3×10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = $10/1$) to give 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-ethanone (1c) (0.165 g, 0.81 mmol, 81% yield).

Method B: a mixture of 1,1,1-trifluoro-undecan-2-ol (2b) $(0.136 \text{ g}, 0.6 \text{ mmol})$ and **8** (as monohydrate, $0.019 \text{ g}, 0.06 \text{ mmol}$, 10 mol%), powdered Oxone[®] (0.332 g, 0.54 mmol) in CH₃NO₂ (3 mL) was stirred at 110 °C under the atmosphere of air. After stirring for 24 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered, being successively washed with ethyl acetate. The combined filtrates were washed with water (10 mL), dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = $10/1$) to give 1,1,1trifluoroundecan-2-one $(1b)$ $(0.092 g, 0.41 mmol, 68%$ yield).

3.5. 1,1,1-Trifluoro-4-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-3-methyl-2-butanone $(1q)$

Yield: 86%; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.26 (d, J = 6.79 Hz, 3H), 1.37 (s, 9H), 2.68 (dd, J = 13.79, 7.79 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, J = 13.79, 5.99 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.39 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.39 Hz, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, CCl₃F) δ -78.35 (s, 3F); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 16.11, 31.65, 34.75, 37.89, 43.17, 116.12 (q, J = 292.87 Hz), 120.49, 125.84, 135.18, 150.01, 195.13 (q, J = 33.60 Hz); IR (neat) 2965, $2871, 1759, 1518, 1462, 1365, 1290, 1268, 1203, 1153, 1109 cm⁻¹;$ HRMS (FAB+) Calcd for $C_{15}H_{19}F_3O$ (M+): 272.1388, Found 272.1378.

3.6. 2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,5-Nonafluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-pentanone $(1u)$

Yield: 89%; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.90 (s, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.19 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.19 Hz, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, CFCl₃) δ -125.63 (s, 2F), -122.34 (s, 2F), -113.02 (s, 2F), -81.44 (d, J = 9.78 Hz, 3F); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 55.96, 105.84–114.39 (m, 3C), 114.71, 117.75 (qt, $J = 285.70, 33.08$ Hz), 124.75 (t, J = 2.06 Hz), 133.33, 165.80, 181.70 $(t, J = 25.20 \text{ Hz})$; IR (neat) 3016, 2975, 2943, 2848, 1697, 1603, 1514, 1465, 1428, 1356, 1317, 1237, 1137 cm⁻¹; HRMS (FAB+) Calcd for $C_{12}H_7F_9O_2$ (M+): 354.0302, Found 354.0302.

3.7. 2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,5-Nonafluoro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-pentanone $(1v)$

Yield: 89%; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, J = 8.99 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d, $J = 8.99$ Hz, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR $\delta - 125.71$ to -125.63 (m, 2F), -122.24 to -122.33 (m, 2F), -113.48 (t, $J = 24.07$ Hz, 2F), -81.40 (t, $J = 19.55$ Hz, 3F); ¹³C NMR δ 105.81-114.25 (m, 3C), 117.63 (qt, $J = 287.65$, 33.03 Hz), 129.87, 130.17 (t, $J = 2.51$ Hz), 131.94, 142.84, 182.52 (t, $J = 26.05$ Hz); IR (neat) 1713, 1590, 1491, 1407, 1356, 1237, 1138 cm^{-1} ; the molecular ion peak was not detected in HRMS.

3.8. 2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,5-Nonafluoro-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-pentanone $(1w)$

Yield: 80%; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.58 (m, 3H); ¹⁹F NMR δ -125.87 to -125.82 (m, 2F), -122.30 (s, 2F), -115.54 to -115.45 (m, 2F), -81.45 to -81.43 (m, 3F); ¹³C NMR δ 106.08–113.24 (m, 3C), 117.62 (qt, J = 287.30, 32.90 Hz), 127.09, 129.31 (t, J = 3.75 Hz), 131.42, 133.05, 133.16, 133.86, 182.25 (t, J = 28.00 Hz); IR (neat) 1767, 1591, 1438, 1356, 1238, 1138 cm $^{-1}$; the molecular ion peak was not detected in HRMS.

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