Aminomercuration of Olefins

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Olefins containing carbonyl, alcohol, or ether groups in the γ position to the double bond undergo facile addition of amine and HgCl residues (aminomercuration). The mechanism is thought to involve a cyclic transition state, wherein the mercury atom is held in position over the double bond to facilitate reaction.

Results

The reaction of mercuric salts with olefins has been studied widely.¹⁻³ The majority of these studies center around oxymercuration in which either an alkoxy, carboxylate, or a hydroxyl group is added across

a double bond along with a mercuric salt (eq 1). These
\n
$$
HgX_2 + C=C \left(+ (H)ROH \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} | \\ \hline C \longrightarrow + HX \\ \hline \end{array} \right)
$$
\n(1)
\n
$$
HgX_2 + C=C
$$

reactions are usually carried out in aqueous or alcoholic media and the solvent participates in the addition.

However, much less attention has been devoted to aminomercuration in which the elements of an amine (usually secondary) and a mercuric salt are added to a double bond (eq **2).**

$$
HgX_2 + \bigg\}C = C \left(1 + HNR_2 \longrightarrow -C-C \longrightarrow + HX \quad (2)
$$
\n
$$
XHg \nR_2
$$
\n
$$
I
$$

A few reports of this type of reaction in the litera $ture⁴⁻⁸$ have centered around the reactions of the olefins ethylene and styrene.

In 1957, Wendt and coworkers⁹ showed that various substituted allylureas would undergo aminomercuration to form derivatives possessing the general structure 11.

Only a few organomercurials possessing the structure of I and I1 have been reported; so we felt that more investigation in this area was necessary. Since the compounds reported by Wendt were formed quite well and were structurally more complicated than ethylene, we were led to believe that perhaps aminomercuration may be assisted by olefins which possess internal coordinating groups.

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Allylic Esters.-We have found that functionally substituted allyl derivatives react very well in aminomercuration. For example, allyl benzoate was found to react with a mercuric chloride-piperidine complex

tion products of carbonyl-containing olefins with piperidine are summarized in Table I.

Typically, the addition is achieved by stirring equimolar amounts of the olefin and the mercuric chlorideamine complex in excess amine (solvent) for 1-3 days. The amine hydrochloride is filtered and the solvent is removed under vacuum. The addition product is then crystallized from ethanol. Stirring mercuric chloride and the olefin in piperidine worked equally well, but the reaction times were much longer due to difficulties in stirring heavy precipitates of mercuric chlorideamine complexes.

Aminomercuration is not limited to piperidine; other amines were found to yield addition products. The reaction products with allyl benzoate are listed in Table 11. It is interesting to note that from the **2:l** complexes of amine with mercuric chloride, we were unable to form addition products with allyl benzoate.

We have found some restraints as to the structure of carbonyl-containing olefins which will undergo the aminomercuration reaction. The most favorable geometry involves mercuric ion and six other atoms which may form a seven-membered ring in the transition state.

The importance of carbonyl coordination is supported by the fact that electron-donating para-substituted

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TABLE II

AMINOMERCURATION ADDUCTS FROM ALLYL BENZOATE WITH VARIOUS AMINES[®]

" Amines which gave no addition products under these conditions were pyrrolidine, 4-methylpiperazine, 3-methylpiperidine, heptamethyleneimine, and diethylamine.

allyl benzoates $(-OH, -OCH_a)$ formed addition products whereas allyl p-nitrobenzoate failed to react.

No additions were observed in the allylcarbinyl benzoate system (eight-membered ring), the 4-pentenyl acetate system (nine-membered ring), or in the methyl vinyl acetate system (six-membered ring). Compounds with very rigid structures, such as the bicyclo- $[2.2.1]$ -5-heptenes, failed to yield addition products even though they would conform to a seven-membered ring intermediate (eq 3).

The stereochemistry of the addition can be observed in the case of the product 6 from 3-cyclohexen-1-yl benzoate. The large coupling constant for axial protons ($J = 10$ cps) in the nmr indicates that the $-NR_2$ and $-HgCl$ groups are trans to each other (eq 4). This

is in agreement with what is observed in oxymercuration (trans addition) in the cases of nonsterically hindered olefins. $1-3$

The infrared carbonyl absorption frequencies of the aminomercuration products were shifted to lower frequencies (Table III). This indicates a weakening of

the carbonyl bond, perhaps by coordination to the chloromercuri substituent.

This would be one explanation for the observed magnetic nonequivalence of the two hydrogens adjacent to oxygen.¹⁰ Alternatively, this nonequivalence could be ascribed to the presence of the adjacent asymmetric carbon carrying the amino group.

(10) We are indebted to Dr. G. Noren for pointing this out.

 $\rm T_{ABLE}$ IV

 (9)

Vinyl Esters. -Vinyl benzoate and vinyl acetate undergo an aminolysis-oxidation reaction under the aminomercuration conditions to produce N-benzoylpiperidine and chloromercuriacetaldehyde (eq *5).*

This is in agreement with the work of Nesmeyanov, *et al.,ll* who found that vinyl acetate yielded chloromercuriacetaldehyde under oxymercuration conditions (eq 6). It is not necessary, however, for carbonyl co-

ordination to occur in these examples since vinyl ethers also produce chloromercuriacetaldehyde.

Allylic Alcohols and Ethers.-We also found that unsaturated alcohols and ethers will undergo the aminomercuration reaction (Scheme I). The olefinic compounds listed in Table IV were found to yield addition products. In some cases, the addition product could only be obtained crystalline from the piperidine solvent and a molecule of the amine was found in the mercuric ion coordination sphere (eq 7).

(It is interesting to note that the addition product obtained from allyl alcohol was identical with that obtained from allyl acetate. This indicates that aminolysis is a competing reaction in the case of allyl esters.)

The saturated alcohol systems appear to be much more flexible than the carbonyl-containing olefins in that the geometry requirements are less stringent. Allyl alcohol, 3-buten-1-01, and 4-pentcn-1-01, which could form intermediates consisting of five-, six-, and seven-membered rings, were all found to give addition products.

(11) **A.** Nesmeyanov, I. Lutsenko, and **R.** Turnanova, *Izn. Akad. Naulc SSSR, Otd.* Khim. Nauk, 601 (1949).

In the oxymercuration of 4-penten-1-01, the hydroxyl group in the substrate is able to participate in the reaction and a tetrahydrofuran derivative is formed¹² (eq. 9). This reaction does not compete under amino-

$$
CH2=CHCH2CH2CH2OH + Hg(OAc)2 \xrightarrow{H2O}
$$

$$
\left\langle O \right\rangle - CH2Hg(OAc)
$$

mercuration conditions since only an aminomercurial product is observed.

Bicyclo $[2.2.1]$ -5-hepten-2-methanol,¹¹ however, undergoes internal oxymercuration even in the presence of an amine solvent to produce the known tricyclic ether (eq 10).

Conclusion

Aminomercuration is not so general a reaction as oxymercuration. However, aminomercuration reactions can be carried out with olefins which possess internal coordinating groups. The effects of structural changes in both the olefin and the amine have been explored.

Experimental Section

All melting points are uncorrected. Kuclear magnetic resonance spectra were taken on Varian HA-100 and T-60 spec-

⁽¹²⁾ M. Lora-Tamayo, F. Martin-Panizo. and **F.** Bonnet, *An. Real Soc. Espan. Fzs. Qutm, Ser. B,* **61,** 711 (1955); Chem. *Abstr.,* **60,** 11246 (1956).

trometers. Infrared spectra were taken on Perkin-Elmer **337** and Infracord spectrometers. Elemental analyses were performed by Galbraith Laboratories, Knoxville, Tenn.

^Atypical preparation of a amine-mercuric chloride complex was as follows.

Mercuric Chloride-Piperidine Complex.-To a solution of **8.1** g **(0.03** mol) of mercuric chloride in **120** ml of hot water was added a solution of **2.5** g (0.03 mol) of piperidine (Aldrich) in **10** ml of water while stirring vigorously with a magnetic stir bar. A yellow precipitate separated out of solution immediately. The precipitate was filtered, washed with water, and air dried overnight. The light yellow solid **(10.2** g, 100%) melted at **142- 143'.**

Other 1:1 mercuric chloride-amine complexes were formed in an analogous manner and are summarized in Table V. A typical aminomercuration reaction was as follows.
3-Chloromercuric-2-piperidinopropyl Benzoate

3-Chloromercuric-2-piperidinopropyl Benzoate (1) .-To a solution of 5.0 g **(0.030** mol) of allyl benzoate (K & K Laboratories) in **35** ml of piperidine (A1drich):was added **6.0** g **(0.016,** mol) of mercuric chloride-piperidine complex. The suspension was stirred with a magnetic stir bar. After **1** hr, the solution was homogeneous, and after 36 hr, piperidine hydrochloride began
to precipitate from the solution. Stirring was continued for another 36 hr. The solution was filtered and the excess piperi-
dine was removed with the aid of a vacuum pump. The resulting $\begin{array}{ccc} 34805-78-2; & 4, 34805-79-3; & 5, 34805-80-6; & 6, 34805-80-6; \\ \text{the was removed with the aid of a vacuum pump.} \end{array}$ yellow oil was dissolved in absolute ethanol and allowed to crystallize. The product was filtered, yielding 5.0 g (65%), mp 115-
116°.

was prepared by reaction of allylacetyl chloride with methanol. 2-Cyclohexen-1-01 benzoate was prepared from 2-cyclohexen-1-01 (Aldrich) and benzoyl chloride in pyridine, bp 97° (0.2 mm) [lit.la bp **160-165' 115** mm)] . **endo-Bicyclo[2.2.l]hepten-2-yl** benzoate was prepared from the reaction of cyclopentadiene with

Found: C, **78.62;** H, **6.69; 0, 15.66.**

(13) Koetz and Riohter, *J. Prakt. Chem., [2]* **111, 386. explanation** for **this discrepancy in melting points.**

4-Chloromercuri-6-oxatricyclo [3 .2.1,2*,*] nonane .-To a solution of **3.0** g **(0.024** mol) of **endo-bicyclo[2.2.1]-5-hepten-2** methanol (K $\&$ K Laboratories) in 40 ml of piperidine was added 6.0 g (0.016 mol) of mercuric chloride-piperidine complex. The **6.0** g **(0.016** mol) of mercuric chloride-piperidine complex. The solution was stirred with the aid of a magnetic stir bar for **4** days. Piperidine hydrochloride was filtered from the reaction mixture and the filtrate was evaporated to an oil with the aid of a vacuum pump. The resulting oil was dissolved in absolute alcohol, and ether was added until cloudy. After standing overnight, the crystals were filtered, yielding 4.2 g (60%) of product: mp 205°
(hit.¹⁴ mp 227° from benzene-petroleum ether); nmr spectrum $(DMSO-d_0)$ **4.6-4.7** (doublet, 1 H, $J = 4$ Hz, CHO), 3.4-3.6 (multiplet, **2** H, CH20), **3.2-3.3** (multiplet, **1** H, CH bridgehead), **3.0-3.1** (multiplet, **1** H, CH bridgehead), **2.2-2.4** (multiplet, **2** H, 9-CH and 1-CH), **2.0-2.1** (multiplet, **1** H, CHHg), **1.4-1.7** (quartet, **2 H,** *J* = **12** He, 2-CH2), **0.9-1.1** ppm (doublet, 1 H, $J = 12$ Hz, 9-CH); ir spectrum (KBr) 2950, 2900, 2850 (CH), 1295, 1240, 1140, 1050, 1030, 1015, 950, 900 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₈H₁₁OHgCl: C, 26.88; H, 3.07; Hg, **55.86;** C1, **9.93.** Found: C, **26.80;** H, **3.45;** Hg, **55.06;** C1, **10.10.**

81-7; **7,** 34805-82-8; **8,** 34805-83-9; **9,** 34805-84-0; **10,** 34805-85-1; **11,** 34805-86-2; **12,** 34805-87-3; **14,** 116. **116 product the interest, yearing 516 g (65%), inp 125**
 14805-88-4; 15, 34805-89-5; 16, 34805-90-8; 17,
 14805-91-9: endo-biovelo[2.2.1 lhepten-2-v] benzoate. to precipitate from the solution. Stirring was continued for **Registry No.** -1, 34792-29-5; 2, 34792-30-8; **3,** Esters.-Methyl allylacetate, bp **120-122'** (lit.12 bp **125-126"),** 34805-91-9; ey&-bicyclo **[2.2.i** Ihepten-2-yl benzoate, $34805-92-0;$ 4-chloromercuri-6-oxatricyclo $[3.2.1.2^{3,8}]$ nonane, 34805-93-1.

vinyl benzoate for 20 hr at 200° (autoclave), bp 98° (0.2 mm). Science Foundation and the Hercules Company for the *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}O_2$: C, 78.50; H, 6.54; O, 14.95. support of this work. **Acknowledgment.** —We wish to thank the National Science Foundation and the Hercules Company for the

(14) H. **Henbest and** B. Nicholls, *J.* **Chem.** *Soc.,* **227 (1959). We have no**