

Chelation-Assisted Intermolecular Hydroacylation: Direct Synthesis of Ketone from Aldehyde and 1-Alkene

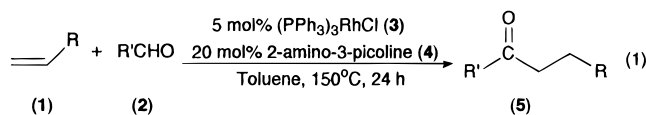
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Activation of the aldehydic carbon–hydrogen bond by transition-metal complexes has especially received interest because of its relevance to organic synthesis through conversion of aldehyde into ketone (i.e., hydroacylation).¹ A negative consequence in the synthesis of ketone from aldehyde is decarbonylation in the acylmetal intermediate, formed by cleavage of the aldehydic carbon–hydrogen bond.² There are limitations to attempts to solve decarbonylation for direct intermolecular hydroacylation by cyclometalation with a specially designed model compound³ or by stabilization of the complex by pressurization with carbon monoxide gas.⁴ An indirect method consisting of a few steps to make ketone from aldehyde has also been developed with carboxaldimine, which can be converted by catalytic reaction with 1-alkene into carboxketimines.⁵ This reaction is followed by hydrolysis under acid conditions to produce ketone. Until now, no practical direct intermolecular hydroacylation has been reported. Herein, we describe a one-step synthesis of ketone from aldehyde with the cocatalyst system of the transition-metal complex and 2-amino-3-picoline.

In our experiment, 1-alkene **1** reacted with aldehyde **2** in toluene at 150 °C for 24 h under a mixture of 5 mol % of chlorotris(triphenylphosphine)rhodium (I) (**3**) and 20 mol % of 2-amino-3-picoline (**4**) as a cocatalyst based upon **2** (eq 1).⁶



Following the reaction, the corresponding hydroacylated product, ketone, was isolated by column chromatography. The reactions between various aldehydes and 1-alkenes were examined, and the results are shown in Table 1.⁷










The resulting hydroacylated ketones were linear in shape, not branched alkyl ketones. The reaction of a chiral olefin such as 4-vinylcyclohexene (**1g**) with benzaldehyde (run 7) affords the corresponding ketone **5g**,

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Table 1. Ligand-Assisted Intermolecular Hydroacylation of 1-Alkene with Aldehyde^a

Entry	1-Alkene R' (1)	Aldehyde R' (2)	Hydroacylated Product (5)	Yield (%) ^b
1	n-C ₄ H ₉ - (1a)	 - (2a)	n-C ₆ H ₁₃ -CO-Ph (5a)	72
2	n-C ₃ H ₇ - (1b)		n-C ₅ H ₁₁ -CO-Ph (5b)	75
3	H (1c)		C ₂ H ₅ -CO-Ph (5c)	92 ^c
4	t-C ₄ H ₉ - (1d)		t-C ₄ H ₉ CH ₂ CH ₂ CO-Ph (5d)	68
5	n-C ₈ H ₁₇ - (1e)		n-C ₁₀ H ₂₁ -CO-Ph (5e)	74
6	PhCH ₂ - (1f)		PhCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CO-Ph (5f)	83
7	 - (1g)		 -CH ₂ CH ₂ CO-Ph (5g)	67 ^d
8	C ₆ F ₅ - (1h)		C ₆ F ₅ -CH ₂ CH ₂ CO-Ph (5h)	90
9	n-C ₃ H ₇ - (1b)	CH ₃ O-  - (2b)	CH ₃ O-  -CO-n-C ₅ H ₁₁ (5i)	66
10		n-C ₆ H ₁₃ - (2c)	n-C ₆ H ₁₃ -CO-n-C ₅ H ₁₁ (5j)	49
11		 - (2d)	 -CO-n-C ₅ H ₁₁ (5k)	67
12		 -CH ₂ CH ₂ - (2e)	 -(CH ₂) ₂ -CO-n-C ₅ H ₁₁ (5l)	67
13		t-C ₄ H ₉ - (2f)	t-C ₄ H ₉ -CO-n-C ₅ H ₁₁ (5m)	6

^a Aldehyde (0.44 mmol), 1-alkene (1.30 mmol), (PPh₃)₃RhCl (0.022 mmol), and 2-amino-3-picoline (0.086 mmol) in toluene (0.1 g) at 150 °C for 24 h. ^b Isolated yield after chromatographic isolation (hexane:ethylacetate = 5:2). ^c Benzene was used as a solvent. ^d [α]_D + 3.62 from 4-vinylcyclohexene of [α]_D + 1.08.

Table 2. Effect of 2-Amino-3-picoline (**4**) on Hydroacylation of **1b** with **2b**^a

entry	mol % of 4	product ratio 5i :anisole	isolated yield (%) of 5i
1	0	0 ^b :100	0
2	10	58:42	14
3	20	85:15	57
4	50	85:15	70
5	70	90:10	80
6	100	93:7	83

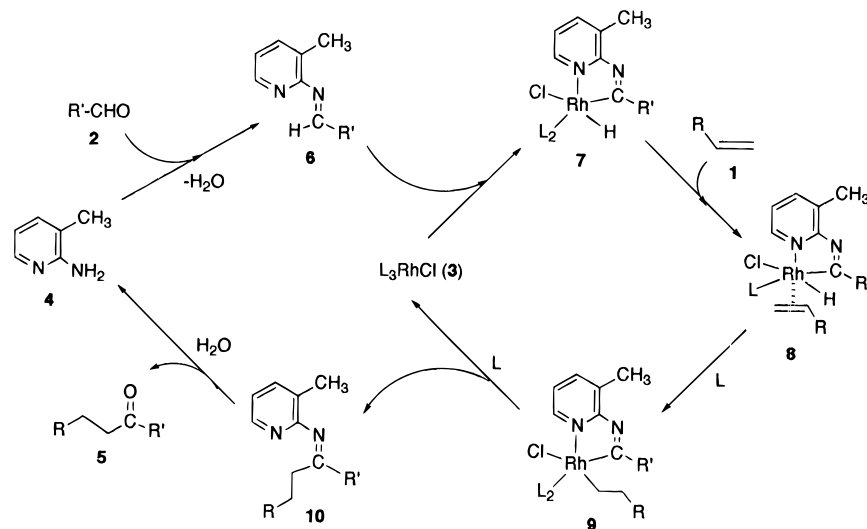
^a Anisaldehyde (0.22 mmol), 1-pentene (1.08 mmol), (Ph₃P)₃RhCl (0.022 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at 100 °C for 60 h under different mol % of 2-amino-3-picoline based upon anisaldehyde. ^b 46% yield of anisole was obtained, determined by GC.

which retains an asymmetric center in a 3-cyclohexenyl group. Aliphatic aldehyde still showed comparable reactivity with the aromatic aldehyde (runs 10–12). The reaction of a sterically hindered aliphatic aldehyde such as *tert*-butyl aldehyde **2f** afforded a lower yield of ketone compared with those of primary and secondary aliphatic

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(6) A mixture of 46.6 mg (0.44 mmol) of **2a**, 9.3 mg (0.086 mmol) of **4**, and 20 mg (0.022 mmol) of **3** was dissolved in toluene (0.1 g) in a 1 mL screw-capped vial. After the mixture was stirred for several minutes, 109.0 mg (1.30 mmol) of **1a** was added. The mixture was magnetically stirred for 24 h at 150 °C. The solution was concentrated to give a residue that was purified by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 5:2, SiO₂) to give 60.1 mg of **5a** (72% isolated yield), which was characterized by spectroscopic analysis.

Scheme 1. Proposed Catalytic Cycle for Ligand-Assisted Hydroacylation (L = PPh₃)Table 3. Catalytic Activities of Some Transition Metal Complexes^a

entry	catalyst	additive ^b	isolated yield (%) hexanophenone ^c
1	(Ph ₃ P) ₃ RhCl		72
2	RhCl ₃ ·xH ₂ O	PPh ₃	68
3	Rh(CO)(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl		16
4	Ru ₃ (CO) ₁₂	(CH ₃) ₃ NO ^d	(10)
5	Ru(PPh ₃) ₃ Cl ₂	NaBH ₄ , PPh ₃	(9) ^e
6	Ir(CO)(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl		0
7	(Ph ₃ P) ₃ IrCl		0
8	[(C ₈ H ₁₄) ₂ RhCl] ₂	PPh ₃	48
9		(<i>p</i> -CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄) ₃ P	61
10		(<i>p</i> -(CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄) ₃ P	56
11		Cy ₃ P	38
12		(CH ₃) ₃ P	0

^a Benzaldehyde (0.22 mmol), 1-pentene (1.08 mmol), transition-metal complexes (0.022 mmol), and 2-amino-3-picoline (0.22 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at 100 °C for 40 h. ^b All phosphines added were 0.11 mmol. ^c Figures in parentheses were GC yield based upon benzaldehyde. ^d 0.066 mmol was added, and without additive, 3% of hexanophenone was formed. ^e Without additive, 1% of hexanophenone was formed.

aldehydes (run 13). This hydroacylation process is believed to proceed as illustrated in Scheme 1.

The first step might be condensation of aldehyde **2** and 2-amino-3-picoline (**4**) to generate aldimine **6** and H₂O. A carbon–hydrogen bond in **6** is cleaved by rhodium(I) in **3** to give an (iminoacyl)rhodium(III) hydride **7**, which was previously found from the reaction of aldimine **6** and **3**.⁸ Coordination of 1-alkene **1** to **7** and subsequent hydride insertion into 1-alkene in **8** leads to an (iminoacyl)rhodium(III) alkyl **9**. Reductive elimination in **9** produces carboxketimine **10** with regeneration of catalyst **3**. Hydrolysis of **10** with H₂O, previously generated from the condensation of **2** and **4**, synthesizes products **5** and **4**. In this process, **4** and complex **3** act as catalysts. Linear alkyl ketones were obtained in this reaction through hydrometalation in **8** following anti-Markovnikoff's rule, due to the steric congestion of the (iminoacyl)rhodium(III) complex system.

(7) All ketones were the reported compounds except **5h**. Spectroscopic data for **5h**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS) δ 8.0 (dd, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, 2,6-Hs in phenyl group), 7.4–7.2 (m, 3H, 3,4,5-Hs in phenyl group), 3.3 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, α-CH₂ to CO), 3.1 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, β-CH₂ to CO); ¹³C NMR (72.5 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS) δ 197.7 (CO), 136.2–127.9 (Cs of C₆H₅ and C₆F₅ group), 37.3 (α-C of CO), 17.0 (β-C of CO); IR (neat) 2917, 1692 (CO), 1598, 1515, 1450, 1289, 1204, 1171, 1045, 957, 760, 695 cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV) *m/z* 300 (31) [M⁺], 181 (5), 105 (100) [PhCO⁺], 77 (86.2) [C₆H₅⁺]; HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₉OF₅ 300.057356, found 300.057686.

(8) Intermediates, aldimine **6** (R = Ph), and complex **7** were already prepared and characterized in ref 7a.

To identify the effect of **4**, different molar ratios of **4** were applied for hydroacylation of 1-pentene with 4-anisaldehyde (**2b**) under mild conditions (10 mol % of **3**, THF, 100 °C, 60 h) (Table 2).⁹

Without the addition of **4**, the decarbonylation product, anisole, was obtained exclusively in 46% yield (Table 2, run 1). With 10 mol % of **4**, 4'-methoxyhexanophenone (**5i**) was isolated in 14% yield along with a 10% yield of anisole. By increasing the concentration of **4** to 20 mol %, 50 mol %, 70 mol %, and 100 mol %, the ratio of **5i** to anisole was increased to 85:15, 85:15, 90:10, and 93:7. This result indicates that hydroacylation competes with the decarbonylation of aldehyde. The above results show that increasing the concentration of 2-amino-3-picoline also increases the probability of carbon–hydrogen cleavage of carboxaldimine.

A variety of organometallic compounds, with or without additives, were studied in the conversion of **1** into **5** at 100 °C for 40 h. This reaction requires the catalyst, 10 mol % of metal complex, and 100 mol % of **4** (Table 3). The complexes (PPh₃)₃RhCl, RhCl₃·H₂O with PPh₃, Rh(CO)(PPh₃)₂Cl, Ru₃(CO)₁₂ with (CH₃)₃NO, Ru(PPh₃)₃Cl₂ with NaBH₄, and PPh₃ were all catalytically active. It is interesting to note that even Rh(CO)(PPh₃)₂Cl showed catalytic activity since it can be generated from decarbonylation of aldehyde by **3** (Table 3, run 3).² This result explains that although partial decarbonylation occurred during hydroacylation, the generated Rh(CO)-(PPh₃)₂Cl catalyst still has catalytic hydroacylation activity. When different types of phosphines were tested under the [(C₈H₁₄)₂RhCl]₂ catalyst, the best result was obtained using tris(*p*-methylphenyl)phosphine (Table 3, runs 8–12).

In conclusion, this report shows the general direct intermolecular hydroacylation of 1-alkene with aldehyde with the assistance of 2-amino-3-picoline.

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(9) Other 2-aminopyridine derivatives have been tested for this reaction, and 2-amino-3-picoline showed the best result. Toluene and THF did not show any large difference in results, but we preferred THF to toluene under mild conditions such as 100 °C.