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Novel Functionalizations of [60]Fullerene-Fused Lactones

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Reactions of [60]fullerene-fused lactones with methylmagnesium bromide and diisobutylaluminum hydride afforded rare fullerene hemiketals and hemiacetals, which were dehydrated by *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate or polyphosphonic acid to the corresponding [60]fullerene-fused dihydrofurans. Thus obtained alkyl-substituted and especially unsubstituted [60]fullerene-fused dihydrofurans are difficult to prepare by other methods. The unsubstituted [60]fullerene-fused lactone could react with aliphatic amines to give fullerols.

Introduction

Due to the availability of fullerenes in a macroscopic amount, various effective methods for fullerene functionalizations to prepare a plethora of fullerene derivatives have been discovered.¹ However, there is a demand to develop more protocols to obtain fullerene derivatives with some desired specific structures. For example, the simplest unsubstituted fullerene-fused dihydrofuran remains elusive, and only one fullerene hemiacetal derivative has been reported until today.² The formation of an acetal, hemiketal, or ketal moiety in fullerene functionalizations is still underexploited.³

Free radical reactions are of great interest and are important methodologies to functionalize fullerenes.⁴ Recently, we have successfully applied manganese(III) acetate dihydrate (Mn- $(OAc)_3 \cdot 2H_2O$) to the free radical reactions of [60]fullerene (C₆₀) to give a diversity of fullerene products.⁵ The Mn(OAc)₃ $\cdot 2H_2O$ -

mediated reactions of C₆₀ with various active methylene compounds, aromatic methyl ketones, and β -enamino carbonyl compounds afforded 1,4-adducts and 1,16-adducts of C₆₀,^{5a,b} singly bonded fullerene dimers,^{5a} C₆₀-fused dihydrofuran

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SCHEME 1. Preparation of Fullerene Hemiketals 2a-c



1a, 2a: R = H; 1b, 2b: R = CH₃; 1c, 2c: R = Ph

derivatives,^{5c} methanofullerenes,^{5a,c} and C₆₀-fused pyrroline derivatives.^{5e} Interestingly, ArC₆₀–H could be transformed into ArC₆₀–OAc by Mn(OAc)₃·2H₂O.^{5d} We have recently reported the preliminary result for the preparation of C₆₀-fused lactones mediated by Mn(OAc)₃·2H₂O and the novel reductive ring opening of the lactone moiety by Grignard reagents.⁶ In continuation of our interest in fullerene chemistry,^{5–7} herein we describe further functionalizations of C₆₀-fused lactones with methylmagnesium bromide (CH₃MgBr), diisobutylaluminum hydride (DIBAL-H), and aliphatic amines (RCH₂NH₂) to obtain fullerene hemiketals, fullerene hemiacetals, and fullerols. The hemiketals and hemiacetals can be further transformed into C₆₀fused dihydrofurans by dehydration.

Results and Discussion

We previously reported that the reactions of C_{60} -fused lactones with Grignard reagents in tetrahydrofuran gave unexpectedly the reductive ring-opened products, probably due to the initiation of an electron-transfer process between the C_{60} skeleton and the Grignard reagent.⁶ The attempt to obtain the corresponding hemiketals or tertiary alcohols with a Grignard reagent in tetrahydrofuran failed. However, we later found that the desired fullerene hemiketals could be produced when toluene was chosen as the solvent. Lactones 1a-c reacted instantaneously with methylmagnesium bromide (CH₃MgBr) in toluene at room temperature and gave fullerene hemiketals 2a-c after quenching with acetic acid (Scheme 1).

The identity of hemiketals $2\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}$ was fully established by MS, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, FT-IR, and UV-vis spectra. The negative APCI MS of hemiketal $2\mathbf{a}$ showed the molecular ion at m/z794. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of hemiketal $2\mathbf{a}$, the two methylene protons were split as two AB doublets at 3.62 and 3.84 ppm with J = 12.5 Hz due to the adjacent chiral center. In the ¹³C NMR spectrum of hemiketal $2\mathbf{a}$, the peak for the hemiketal carbon appeared at 104.89 ppm, and the chemical shifts for the two sp³-carbons of the C₆₀ skeleton (97.87 and 68.35 ppm) were close to those of lactones $1\mathbf{a}$.⁶ Forty-six peaks including some overlapped ones for the 58 sp²-carbons of the C₆₀ moiety were observed in the range of 134–157 ppm, consistent with the C_1 symmetry of its molecular structure. While hemiketal $2\mathbf{a}$ was a single pure product, careful examination of the ¹H NMR spectra of hemiketals $2\mathbf{b}$ and $2\mathbf{c}$ revealed

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TABLE 1. Yields, *cisltrans* Isomer Ratio, and Recovered Lactones for the Preparation of Hemiketals 2a-c

hemiketal	R	yield ^a (%)	cis/trans ^b	recovered lactone (%)
2a	Н	75		19
2b	CH_3	41	>95/5	54
2c	Ph	42	90/10	38

^a Total isolated yield including both *cis* and *trans* isomers. ^b The *cis/ trans* ratio was determined by the ¹H NMR spectrum.





that a minor isomer also coexisted. The predominant isomer of hemiketals **2b** and **2c** was determined as the *cis* isomer (Figure 1) by their NOESY spectra. The exclusive formation of the *cis* isomer can be understood by the fact that attack of the carbonyl group by CH_3MgBr is preferred from the less hindered side of the lactone moiety. The attempt to separate out the minor *trans* isomer through column chromatography was unsuccessful.

The yields and *cis/trans* isomer ratio along with recovered lactones for the reactions of C_{60} -fused lactones **1a**-**c** with CH₃-MgBr in toluene for 5 min are listed in Table 1.

Nucleophilic additions are among the earliest observed reactions in fullerene chemistry. Addition of Grignard or lithium reagents to the C=C bonds of C_{60} is an attractive synthetic method for fullerene functionalizations.¹ However, CH₃MgBr did not add to C_{60} under our conditions, reflecting the higher reactivity of the lactone moiety compared to that of the C=C bonds of C_{60} . In addition, hemiketals **2a**-**c** could not react with another molecule of CH₃MgBr to afford the corresponding tertiary alcohols even in the presence of a large excess of the Grignard reagent or by increasing the reaction temperature and extending the reaction time. The choice of noncoordinating toluene replacing tetrahydrofuran as the solvent was very important to obtain fullerene hemiketals **2a**-**c** because it could retard the competing electron-transfer process between the C_{60} moiety and CH₃MgBr.

Encouraged by the successful preparation of fullerene hemiketals from C₆₀-fused lactones 1a-c and CH₃MgBr, we explored the reactions of lactones 1a-c with disobutylaluminum hydride (DIBAL-H) hoping to obtain fullerene hemiacetals. To our satisfaction, treatment of lactones 1a-c with DIBAL-H at room temperature led to formation of fullerene hemiacetals 3a-cimmediately (Scheme 2).

The yields and *cis/trans* isomer ratio along with recovered lactones for the reactions of C_{60} -fused lactones 1a-c with DIBAL-H in toluene for 5 min are listed in Table 2.

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TABLE 2. Yields, *cis/trans* Isomer Ratio, and Recovered Lactones for the Preparation of Hemiacetals 3a-c

hemiacetal	R	yield ^a (%)	cis/trans ^b	recovered lactone (%)
3a 3b	H CH3	93 81	78/22	trace 15
3c	Ph	76	42/58	trace

^a Total isolated yield including both *cis* and *trans* isomers. ^b The *cis/ trans* ratio was determined by the ¹H NMR spectrum.

As can be seen from Table 2, the yields for the hemiacetals **3a-c** were very high. Compound **3a** was reported as one of the products from the photochemical reaction of C_{60} with triethylamine in air-saturated solution.² Nevertheless, the yield was quite low, that is, 6-10% yield on the basis of reacted C_{60} . Obviously, our protocol provides a better alternative access to product 3a in much higher yield. The structure of hemiacetal **3a** was confirmed by comparison of its spectral data with those reported previously.² For hemiacetals **3b** and **3c**, both *cis* and trans isomers were observed. The cis and trans isomers of 3b and 3c were also inseparable by column chromatography, and their ratios were determined by the integrals in the ¹H NMR spectra. The coupling constants for the methine protons on the tetrahydrofuran ring in the *trans* isomers with similar structural moieties are usually smaller and even close to zero.⁸ Therefore, the isomer with smaller coupling constants for the methine protons was assigned as the trans isomer. The poorer stereoselectivity of 3b,c relative to that of 2b,c needs further investigation. In contrast with all other cases, the trans isomer of 3c was formed preferentially, though the exact reason is still unknown. Similar to hemiketals 2a-c, no further reaction of hemiacetals 3a-c by another molecule of DIBAL-H was achieved.

The hydroxy group of the hemiketals 2a-c and hemiacetals **3a**-**c** has the potential for many further functionalizations, such as esterification, etherification, and dehydration, to attain various fullerene derivatives that incorporate with desired specific structure units. Electron-withdrawing group, such as carbonyl and aryl groups, were usually attached to the olefinic carbons in the reported C60-fused dihydrofurans, which were commonly prepared from the reactions of C_{60} with β -keto esters, β -diketones, or aromatic methyl ketones in the presence of a base or metal oxidant.4e,5c,9 However, alkyl-substituted C60-fused dihydrofurans have not appeared in the literature. We conjectured that our synthesized hemiketals 2a-c and hemiacetals 3a-cshould be the excellent precursors. To our delight, we found that p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (TsOH·H₂O) and polyphosphoric acid (PPA) could efficiently cause the dehydration of hemiketals 2a-c and hemiacetals 3a-c to give the corresponding C_{60} -fused dihydrofuran derivatives 4a-f (Scheme 3).

The yields and reactions times for the formation of products 4a-f from the dehydration reactions of hemiketals 2a-c and

SCHEME 3. Dehydration of Hemiketals 2a-c and Hemiacetals 3a-c



4a: R = R, R = CR₃; **4b**: R = CR₃, R = CR₃; **4c**: R = Ph, R' = CH₃; **4d**: R = H, R' = H; **4e**: R = CH₃, R' = H; **4f**: R = Ph, R' = H

TABLE 3.	Yields and Reaction Times for the Dehydration
Reactions of	Hemiketals 2a-c and Hemiacetals 3a-c by TsOH and
PPA	

product	acid	time (h)	yield (%)	recovered 2 or 3 (%)
4a	TsOH	2	64	35
	PPA	0.5	99	trace
4b	TsOH	1	86	12
	PPA	0.5	96	trace
4c	TsOH	1	98	trace
	PPA	0.5	98	trace
4d	TsOH	2	trace	trace
	PPA	1	91	trace
4e	TsOH	2	89	9
	PPA	4	96	trace
4 f	TsOH	1	98	trace
	PPA	6	84	15

hemiacetals 3a-c in the presence of TsOH and PPA are summarized in Table 3.

The presence of TsOH or PPA proved to be crucial for the success of the dehydrations, with no formation of 4a-f in their absence. It can be seen from Table 3 that PPA generally performed better than TsOH for the dehydration process except for the formation of 4f. Both *cis* and *trans* isomers of hemiketals **2b**,**c** and hemiacetals **3b**,**c** could be dehydrated to give the dihydrofuran derivatives. For the dehydration of **3a**, TsOH afforded some unknown products rather than the desired 4d. However, PPA was successful for the preparation of the simplest and unsubstituted C₆₀-fused dihydrofuran **4d**, which might be difficult to be obtained by any other route.

Compounds **4a**–**f** were fully characterized by their MS, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, FT-IR, and UV–vis spectra. In the ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds **4a**–**f**, the two sp³-carbons of the C₆₀ cage were located at 98.37–101.67 and 71.79–76.12 ppm, and the observation of two half-intensity peaks and no more than 29 lines for the sp²-carbons of the C₆₀ skeleton was consistent with their C_s molecular symmetries. The ¹³C NMR spectral patterns of compounds **4a**–**f** were similar to those of other C₆₀-fused dihydrofurans.^{4e,5c,9}

In order to open the lactone moiety of compounds 1a-c, we examined the reactions of 1a-c with benzylamine and allylamine. The reactions of lactone 1a with benzylamine and allylamine in chlorobenzene at 30–35 °C produced the ringopened fullerols 5a and 5b in 43 and 38% yield, respectively (Scheme 4).

The identities of fullerols **5a** and **5b** were established by their MS, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, FT-IR, and UV–vis spectra. In the ¹H NMR spectra of **5a** and **5b** in CS₂/DMSO- d_6 , the hydroxy and amide protons appeared in a very downfield region (at ca. 9 ppm). The C_s symmetry of **5a** and **5b** was supported by their ¹³C NMR spectral data. The peaks at about 171 ppm in their ¹³C NMR spectra and the absorptions at around 1630 cm⁻¹ in their FT-IR spectra indicated the presence of an amide group.

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5a: $R = CH_2Ph$, **5b**: $R = CH_2CH = CH_2$

The sp³-carbon of the C_{60} skeleton attached to the hydroxy group was located at about 86 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectra of **5a** and **5b**, pretty close to that in other fullerols.¹⁰

Higher reaction temperature led to lower yields because of the reversibility of the reactions, which was confirmed by the fact that, even though **5a** and **5b** were stable at room temperature, lactone **1a** was obtained when they were heated above 50 °C. Unfortunately, lactones **1b** and **1c** could not react with benzylamine and allylamine, probably due to the unfavored steric interactions of substituted phenyl and methyl groups and reversibility of the addition reaction. The reactions of **1a** with other amines were also examined. While a primary amine such as butamine afforded a poor result, secondary amines and aromatic amines could not cleave the lactone moiety.

Conclusion

Further functionalizations of C_{60} -fused lactones 1a-c with CH₃MgBr and DIBAL-H in toluene at ambient temperature led to the formation of scarce fullerene hemiketals 2a-c and fullerene hemiacetals 3a-c. Dehydrations of the obtained hemiketals and hemiacetals by TsOH or PPA resulted in the generation of C_{60} -fused dihydrofurans 4a-f including the unsubstituted and simplest C_{60} -fused dihydrofuran 4d, which would be difficult to be obtained by known fullerene chemistry. Reactions of unsubstituted lactone 1a with benzylamine and allylamine afforded lactone-opened fullerols 5a and 5b.

Experimental Section

Preparation of Fullerene Hemiketals 2a–c. Lactone **1a** (**1b** or **1c**, 0.025 mmol) was dissolved in freshly distilled dry toluene (20 mL) with the aid of sonication, and then the resulting solution was deoxygenated with argon for 10 min. To the solution was added methylmagnesium bromide (50 μ L × 3.00 M in diethyl ether, 0.15 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon atmosphere for less than 5 min and then acidified with acetic acid (0.4 mL). After the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, the residue was separated on a silica gel column with carbon disulfide/toluene as the eluent to afford unreacted lactone and hemiketal **2a** (**2b** or **2c**).

2a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $CS_2/o-C_6D_4Cl_2$) δ 3.84 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (br s, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, $CS_2/DMSO-d_6$) (all 1C unless indicated) δ 156.48, 155.63, 152.24, 149.40, 147.11, 146.45, 145.43, 145.39, 145.34 (2C), 145.23, 145.14, 145.11 (2C), 145.00, 144.97, 144.95, 144.84, 144.70, 144.69, 144.58, 144.47, 144.42, 144.24 (3C), 144.22 (2C), 143.97 (2C), 143.86, 143.49, 142.09, 142.05, 141.74 (2C), 141.68 (2C), 141.65, 141.62, 141.38, 141.33 (2C), 141.30, 141.26 (2C), 141.00 (2C), 140.87, 140.64, 139.10, 138.91, 138.52 (2C), 137.75, 137.04, 136.77, 134.48, 104.89, 97.87 (sp^3 -C of C₆₀), 68.35 (sp^3 -C of C₆₀), 52.57, 25.50; FT-IR ν/cm^{-1} (KBr) 2921 (m), 2851 (w), 1505 (m), 1427 (m), 1380 (w), 1218 (m), 1180 (m), 1109 (s),

999 (s), 885 (s), 767 (m), 593 (w), 574 (m), 556 (w), 524 (s); UV– vis (CHCl₃) λ_{max} /nm (log ϵ) 256 (4.88), 312 (4.39), 427 (3.26), 693 (2.43); MS (APCI) *m*/*z* 794 (M⁻).

Preparation of Fullerene Hemiacetals 3a–c. Lactone **1a** (**1b** or **1c**, 0.025 mmol) was dissolved in freshly distilled dry toluene (20 mL) with the aid of sonication, and then the resulting solution was deoxygenated by argon for 10 min. After the DIBAL-H (150 μ L × 1.00 M in toluene, 0.15 mmol) was added, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon atmosphere for less than 5 min and then acidified with acetic acid (0.4 mL). After the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, the residue was separated on a silica gel column with toluene/carbon disulfide as the eluent to afford unreacted lactone and fullerene hemiacetal **3a** (**3b** or **3c**).

3a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $CS_2/o-C_6D_4Cl_2$) δ 6.42 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (dd, J = 12.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CS₂/DMSO-*d*₆) (all 1C unless indicated) δ 156.29, 155.49, 151.84, 149.11, 147.12, 146.47, 145.47, 145.41, 145.37, 145.36, 145.27, 145.15, 145.14, 145.12, 145.01, 145.00, 144.94, 144.92, 144.68, 144.66, 144.60, 144.45, 144.39, 144.30, 144.28 (2C), 144.25, 144.23, 143.94 (2C), 143.86, 143.51, 142.11, 142.07, 141.78 (2C), 141.73, 141.72, 141.69, 141.67, 141.40, 141.37, 141.34 (2C), 141.30, 141.26, 141.06, 141.03, 141.00, 140.68, 139.15, 139.00, 138.65, 138.59, 137.27, 136.83, 136.54, 134.52, 97.88, 97.69 (*sp*³-*C* of C₆₀), 66.95 (*sp*³-*C* of C₆₀), 48.75; FT-IR v/cm⁻¹ (KBr) 2920 (m), 2850 (w), 1506 (s), 1461 (w), 1426 (s), 1336 (w), 1210 (w), 1170 (m), 1103 (m), 1046 (s), 1016 (s), 980 (s), 940 (s), 880 (w), 763 (w), 574 (w), 555 (w), 525 (s); UV-vis (CHCl₃) λ_{max} /nm (log ϵ) 256 (5.08), 313 (4.57), 427 (3.42), 693 (2.41); MS (APCI) m/z 780 (M⁻).

Dehydration of Hemiketals 2a-c and Hemiacetals 3a-c with TsOH·H₂O or PPA. The mixture of a chosen compound 2a (2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, or 3c, 0.025 mmol) and TsOH·H₂O (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol) or PPA (170 mg, 0.50 mmol) was dissolved in chlorobenzene (20 mL), and then the resulting solution was stirred in an oil bath preset at 130 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC and stopped at the desired time. After the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, the residue was separated on a silica gel column with carbon disulfide as the eluent to afford C₆₀-fused dihydrofuran derivative 4a (4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, or 4f) and, if any, unreacted hemiketal or hemiacetal.

4a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CS₂/DMSO-*d*₆) δ 5.81 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CS₂/DMSO-*d*₆ with Cr(acac)₃ as relaxation reagent) (all 2C unless indicated) δ 155.36 (1C), 149.05, 146.85 (1C), 146.12 (1C), 145.07, 144.91, 144.85, 144.79, 144.72, 144.55, 143.98, 143.96, 143.95 (4C), 143.94, 143.83, 143.28, 143.13, 141.77, 141.73, 141.49, 141.46, 141.12, 140.99, 140.95, 140.70, 140.50, 139.32, 138.56, 136.11, 134.53, 100.88 (1C, *sp*³-C of C₆₀), 98.96 (1C), 72.92 (1C, *sp*³-C of C₆₀), 13.18 (1C); FT-IR ν /cm⁻¹ (KBr) 2921 (m), 2852 (w), 1507 (s), 1466 (w), 1429 (m), 1375 (w), 1276 (w), 1182 (w), 1127 (w), 1044 (w), 1005 (w), 981 (w), 940 (w), 726 (w), 600 (w), 575 (w), 525 (s); UV-vis (CHCl₃) $\lambda_{max}/nm (\log \epsilon)$ 255 (5.00), 315 (4.49), 427 (3.35), 693 (2.52); MS (APCI) *m*/*z* 776 (M⁻).

Preparation of Fullerols 5a and 5b. After lactone **1a** (19.5 mg, 0.025 mmol) was dissolved with chlorobenzene (15 mL), benzylamine or allylamine (0.5 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 30-35 °C for 15 h. The resulting solution was directly separated on a silica gel column with CS₂/CHCl₃ as the eluent, and fullerol **5a** (9.6 mg, 43%) or **5b** (8.0 mg, 38%) was obtained along with unreacted lactone **2a** (43 and 35%, respectively). All operations were conducted at <40 °C.

5a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CS₂/DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 9.27 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.13 (m, 5H), 4.54 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CS₂/DMSO-*d*₆ with Cr(acac)₃ as relaxation reagent) (all 2C unless indicated) δ 171.10 (1C, CONH), 154.84, 153.05, 147.05 (1C), 146.57 (1C), 145.20 (4C), 144.90, 144.82, 144.73, 144.60, 144.58, 144.12, 144.04 (4C), 144.11, 143.72, 143.45, 141.67, 141.32, 141.28, 141.12, 141.08, 140.89, 140.61, 140.58, 139.94, 138.52, 138.15, 137.39 (1C, aryl *C*), 135.23, 134.88, 127.44 (aryl *C*), 126.96 (aryl *C*), 126.19 (1C, aryl *C*), 86.60

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Wang et al.

(1C, sp^3 -*C* of C₆₀), 63.07 (1C, sp^3 -*C* of C₆₀), 44.25 (1C), 42.71 (1C); FT-IR ν/cm^{-1} (KBr) 3449 (s), 2920 (w), 2851 (w), 1637 (s), 1510 (s), 1451 (w), 1423 (m), 1181 (w), 1158 (w), 1105 (m), 1034 (s), 1002 (w), 775 (w), 696 (s), 590 (w), 575 (m), 561 (w), 526 (s); UV-vis (CHCl₃) λ_{max}/nm (log ϵ) 254 (4.88), 314 (4.25), 430 (3.10), 693 (2.30); MS (APCI) m/z 884 (M⁻ – 1).

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Supporting Information Available: Spectral data for products **2b**, **2c**, **3b**, **3c**, **4b**–**f**, and **5b**; NMR spectra of products **2a**–**c**, **3a**–**c**, **4a**–**f**, **5a**, and **5b**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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