LDA-Promoted Synthesis of 3-Amino Furans by Selective Lithiation of Enaminones

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: An efficient cascade β -metalation/addition/ cyclization reaction promoted by LDA is described in which 3-amino furans were constructed from enaminones and aldehydes. A broad range of substituents on the starting compounds was tolerated, and the polysubstituted furans were gained with moderate to excellent yields within 2 h.

H ighly functionalized furans play a significant role in organic chemistry, since they, as fundamental heterocyclic motifs, are widely found in biologically active natural products, pharmaceuticals, and materials.¹ Moreover, they have also frequently been used as basic building blocks in synthetic chemistry.² Thus, substantial interest has been attracted toward the development of efficient methods to prepare multiply substituted furans.³ Traditional approaches for the synthesis of furans include Feist–Bénary cyclocondensation⁴ from 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds and haloketones (Scheme 1a), Paal–





Knorr cyclocondensation⁵ from 1,4-dicarbonyl compounds (Scheme 1b), and so on. Transition-metal-catalyzed methods have also been developed for the assembly of various multisubstituted furans, such as the cyclization of allenyl ketones (Scheme 1c),⁶ Au-catalyzed cyclization of (*Z*)-enynols



(Scheme 1d),⁷ and Pd-catalyzed arylation of furans via C–H activation⁸ (Scheme 1e).

Another process to construct polysubstituted furan derivatives is ring transformation.⁹ Functionalization at the 2- and 5positions of furans is readily permitted in chemical transformations, but similar operations at the 3- or 4-position are difficult to achieve. Electron-rich furan derivatives like 3-amino furans are easy to modify by Friedel–Crafts acylation and are exceptionally useful dienes for use in Diels–Alder reactions, whereas there are only a few reports of the synthesis of substituted 3-amino furans.¹⁰

The functionalization of aromatic molecules and heterocyclic compounds has often been achieved by metalation using various bases.¹¹ However, the deprotonation of functionalized nonaromatic and olefinic systems is more difficult and sensitive compared with that of aromatic and heteroaromatic systems.¹² Excellent work by Knochel's group described the magnesiation or zincation of highly functionalized alkenes and cycloalkenes using 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidyl base (Scheme 2).^{12a} During the course of our continued work on the preparation of heterocycles from enaminones,¹³ we developed an efficient cascade addition/cyclization reaction to synthesize 3-amino-2,5-aryl (or alkyl) furans promoted by LDA, from enaminones and aldehydes, inspired by the β -metalation of unsaturated olefins facilitated by the orientation effect on the carbonyl





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group. To our delight, only the desired products of the β metalation process were obtained and no α -metalation products were observed in this system.

We began our investigation with enaminone 1a and 1.4 equiv of LDA (lithium diisopropylamide) using a lithiation temperature of -78 °C under a N₂ atmosphere, followed by adding 1.5 equiv of 4-bromobenzaldehyde 2a. 3-Amino furan 3a was efficiently obtained in 80% isolated yield (Table 1, entry 1). To



O Ph 1a	LD/ N′Pr₂THF,	А онс В ^r -40 °С, 1	$\frac{(2a)}{h} \xrightarrow{Ph} \overset{C}{\checkmark} 3$	N'Pr ₂
entry	LDA (equiv)	lithiation temp.	2a (equiv)	yield (%) ^b
1	1.4	−78 °C	1.5	80
2	1.4 ^c	−78 °C	1.5	79
3	1.4 ^c	-40 °C	1.5	66
4	1.2	−78 °C	1.5	24
5	2.0	−78 °C	1.5	54
6	2.0	−78 °C	2.0	85
7	1.5	−78 °C	2.0	78
att 1	a	1.4	· 1	, 1 NT

"Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were carried out under a N_2 atmosphere on a 0.5 mmol scale. "Isolated yield. "LDA in situ.

our delight, no α -lithiation byproduct was detected. This result encouraged us to optimize the reaction conditions with 1a and 2a as model substrates (Table 1). First, LDA was tested in situ, and almost no difference in product yields was observed (entries 1 and 2). Because LDA is commercially available, we chose to use LDA as the organolithium reagent. When the lithiation temperature was increased to -40 °C, the yield of desired product 3a decreased to 66% (entry 3). Next, the lithiation temperature was fixed at -78 °C and the amounts of LDA and 4-bromobenzaldehyde 2a were screened, revealing that 2.0 equiv of LDA and 2a was essential to this system, with 85% isolated yield of 3-amino furan 3a (entries 4–7).

With the optimized reaction conditions (Table 1, entry 6) in hand, the substrate scope of the reaction was explored by employing a variety of enaminones 1 and aldehydes 2 (Scheme 3). High chemoselectivities and high efficiency were observed in all cases, and a series of polysubstituted 3-amino furans was gained in moderate to good yields within 2 h. The reaction tolerated aldehydes 2 with aromatic substituents with different electronic properties (2a-d), alkyl substituents (2e-f), or heteroaromatic substituents (2g-h), giving corresponding products 3 in good to excellent yields (52-92%). Among them, 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzaldehyde (2b), with a highly electron-donating group as substituent R⁴, gave the best result in producing 3-amino furan 3b (92% isolated yield). The data also illustrated that benzaldehyde (2d) offered product 3d in a lower yield (60% yield) compared with that using aldehydes with either an electron-withdrawing (2a) or electron-donating (2b) group as substituent R⁴. However, when sterically hindered aldehydes 2c ($R^4 = 2$ -bromo-4-methylphenyl) with an ortho-substituent on the benzene ring was employed, the yield of product 3c dropped dramatically (57% yield). Alkyl aldehydes such as 2e and 2f yielded 3-amino furans 3 with good results (3e, 64% yield; 3f, 52% yield). Furthermore, the reaction with heteroaromatic aldehydes 2g and 2h also went smoothly, resulting in desired products 3g and 3h in 81 and 67% yields, respectively. In addition, the structure of 3-amino furan 3c was





 a All reactions were carried out under a N $_{2}$ atmosphere on a 0.5 mmol scale. b Isolated yield.

characterized by X-ray crystallography (see Supporting Information, including a CIF file).

Next, we proceeded to extend the reaction scope to different kinds of enaminones 1. R¹ substituents with either an electronwithdrawing (1i, $R^1 = 4$ -chlorophenyl) or electron-donating (1j, R¹ = 4-methoxyphenyl) group on the benzene ring led to a decline in the yields of the corresponding furan products (3i, 68% yield; 3j, 67% yield) with respect to that using enaminone 1a with a phenyl group as the R^1 substituent (3a, 85% yield). Notably, the scope of the enaminones could be extended to simple aliphatic enaminones, such as 1k, affording the corresponding furan 3k in good yield (80%). Then, efforts were made to examine the N-substituents, R^2 and R^3 , finding that isopropyl is sterically and electrically fit for this system. Other N-substituents like a phenyl group (11) and piperidin-1yl-substituted enaminone (1m) sharply impacted the yields of the desired products, resulting in 31 in 41% yield and 3m in 48% yield.

On the basis of the reported work, 12a,14 a plausible mechanism for this reaction is proposed in Scheme 4. The process begins with the β -metalation of enaminone 1 by LDA, which is aided by help from the orientation effect on the carbonyl group to form lithium compound **A**. Then, attack by aldehyde 2 gives intermediate **B**. The cyclization of **B** generates 2,5-dihydrofuran ring intermediate **C**. After quenching by a saturated solution of ammonium chloride, the desired 3-amino furan 3 was finally obtained by aromatization.



In conclusion, we have developed an efficient procedure for the synthesis of 3-amino furans promoted by LDA, starting with ready-in-hand reagents. This system tolerated a broad range of enaminones and aldehydes and achieved moderate to excellent yields within 2 h. It provides a new, efficient approach to prepare polysubstituted furans.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Remarks. Unless otherwise mentioned, all commercial reagents and solvents were used as purchased without further purification. THF was distilled from sodium/benzophenone. Column chromatographic purification of products was carried out using silica gel (200–300 mesh). NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz (¹H NMR) and 100 MHz (¹³C NMR) respectively, referenced to tetramethylsilane (δ = 0.00 ppm) and the residual solvent peak (δ = 77.00 ppm) in CDCl₃ (containing 0.03% TMS) solutions. *J* values are in hertz. High-resolution mass spectra were performed on a mass spectrometer with a TOF (for EI or ESI) or FT-ICR (for MALDI) analyzer.

General Procedure for the Preparation of (*E*)-Enaminone $1.^{13e}$ To a solution of ynone (5.0 mmol) in toluene or methanol (5 mL) in a Schlenk tube was added secondary amine (6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature until the full conversion of ynone was observed, as monitored by thin-layer chromatography. The resulting mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) afforded desired compound $1.^{15}$ The data of new compounds 1 are given below.

(E)-1-Cyclohexyl-3-(diisopropylamino)prop-2-en-1-one. Yellow liquid, obtained in 12 h and purified by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 4:1); yield: 0.75 g (63%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10–1.30 (m, 15H), 1.37–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.64–1.68 (m, 1H), 1.76–1.83 (m, 4H), 2.25 (t, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (br, 2H), 5.23 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.9, 22.9, 25.4, 25.5, 25.6, 29.2, 47.8, 49.9, 93.1, 146.9, 201.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₂₈NO, 238.2165; found, 238.2176.

(E)-3-(Diisopropylamino)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one. Yellow solid, obtained in 25 min and purified by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 3:1); yield: 1.27 g (97%); mp 77–78 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.26–1.28 (m, 12H), 3.62 (m, 11H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.40 (m, 1H), 5.89 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.3, 23.3, 55.1, 91.2, 113.3, 129.5, 133.7, 148.7,162.0, 187.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₂₄NO₂, 262.1802; found, 262.1807.

General Procedure for the Preparation of 3-Amino Furans 3. To a solution of enaminone 1 (0.5 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) in a Schlenk tube was added a 2.0 M solution of LDA in THF (1.0 mmol, 0.5 mL) dropwise, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h under nitrogen. Then, aldehyde 2 (1.0 mmol) was added at -78 °C, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -40 °C and kept at the temperature until the full conversion of enaminone 1 was observed, as monitored by thin-layer chromatography. The resulting mixture was quenched with a saturated solution of NH₄Cl and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) afforded desired compound **3**.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N,N-diisopropyl-5-phenylfuran-3-amine (**3a**). Colorless liquid, 170 mg (85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 12H), 3.37–3.43 (m, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 7.21–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.72 (m, 2H), 8.22–8.25 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.6, 20.6, 49.8, 108.8, 120.1, 123.5, 126.3, 127.4, 128.6, 130.5, 130.7, 131.0, 131.9, 147.4, 150.9. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m*/*z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₄NOBr, 397.1041; found, 397.1038.

N,*N*-Diisopropyl-5-phenyl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)furan-3amine (**3b**). Colorless liquid, 188 mg (92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 3.41–3.48 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 6H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 7.22–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.7, 49.5, 55.8, 55.8, 60.7, 102.0, 108.8, 123.3, 127.0, 127.1, 128.5, 130.6, 130.7, 136.7, 148.0, 150.2, 152.7. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₅H₃₁NO₄, 409.2253; found, 409.2252.

2-(2-Bromo-4-methylphenyl)-N,N-diisopropyl-5-phenylfuran-3amine (**3c**). White solid, 117 mg (57% yield); mp 133–134 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.99 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 3.30–3.36 (m, 2H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 7.08–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.71–7.75 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 21.0, 49.6, 107.1, 122.4, 123.5, 127.2, 127.4, 128.6, 129.5, 131.1, 131.5, 131.9, 134.0, 139.2, 147.2, 151.0. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₆NOBr, 411.1198; found, 411.1201.

N,N-Diisopropyl-2,5-diphenylfuran-3-amine (**3***d*). Colorless liquid, 95 mg (60% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 3.40–3.46 (m, 2H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 7.18–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.72–7.74 (m, 2H), 8.34–8.36 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.7, 49.8, 108.9, 123.5, 124.8, 126.5, 127.2, 127.9, 128.6, 131.0, 131.3, 131.7, 148.4, 150.5. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₅NO, 319.1936; found, 319.1932.

2-Cyclohexyl-N,N-diisopropyl-5-phenylfuran-3-amine (**3e**). Colorless liquid, 104 mg (64% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 1.26–1.38 (m, 4H), 1.62–1.83 (m, 6H), 2.84–2.88 (m, 1H), 3.24–3.31 (m, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 7.14–7.18 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.63 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.2, 26.1, 26.5, 31.5, 34.3, 49.6, 106.9, 123.0, 125.9, 126.4, 128.5, 131.6, 149.3, 157.4. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₁NO, 325.2406; found, 325.2410.

2-Butyl-N,N-diisopropyl-5-phenylfuran-3-amine (**3f**). Colorless liquid, 78 mg (52% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 1.39–1.44 (m, 2H), 1.64–1.68 (m, 2H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.27–3.30 (m, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 7.17–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.63 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 21.2, 22.8, 25.2, 30.2, 49.8, 107.2, 123.0, 126.4, 127.4, 128.5, 131.6, 149.6, 153.8. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m*/*z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₉NO, 299.2249; found, 299.2247.

N,*N*-Diisopropyl-5-phenyl-2-(pyridin-4-yl)furan-3-amine (**3g**). Yellow liquid, 130 mg (81% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 3.42–3.48 (m, 2H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 7.27–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.76 (m, 2H), 8.17–8.19 (m, 2H), 8.57–8.59 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.5, 49.8, 109.0, 118.3, 123.7, 127.9, 128.6, 130.1, 135.7, 137.9, 145.7, 149.5, 152.5. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O, 320.1889; found, 320.1890.

N,*N*-Diisopropyl-4'-methyl-5-phenyl-[2,2'-bifuran]-3-amine (**3h**). Yellow liquid, 109 mg (67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.029 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H), 1.034 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.36–3.39 (m, 2H), 6.03–6.04 (m, 1H), 6.63–6.64 (m, 1H), 6.85– 6.86 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.74 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.6, 20.9, 49.8, 107.3, 108.1, 108.6, 123.4, 127.0, 128.6, 129.2, 130.8, 143.4, 144.4, 150.6. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₅NO₂, 323.1885; found, 323.1891.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-N,N-diisopropylfuran-3amine (**3i**). Colorless liquid, 148 mg (68% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 3.32–3.35 (m, 2H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.4, 49.8, 109.6, 120.6, 125.0, 126.6, 129.1, 129.5, 130.6, 131.4, 132.3, 133.3, 148.2, 150.3. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₃BrClNO, 432.0730; found, 432.0737.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N,N-diisopropyl-5-(4-ethoxyphenyl)furan-3amine (**3***j*). Yellow liquid, 144 mg (67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12H), 3.39–3.42 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.6, 49.8, 55.2, 107.3, 114.1, 119.7, 123.8, 125.0, 126.1, 130.6, 131.0, 132.0, 146.8, 151.0, 159.1. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₆BrNO₂, 427.1147; found, 427.1151.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-cyclohexyl-N,N-diisopropylfuran-3-amine (**3k**). Colorless liquid, 162 mg (80% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.99 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 1.23–1.45 (m, 5H), 1.68–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.77–1.80 (m, 2H), 2.04–2.06 (m, 2H), 2.59–2.63 (m, 1H), 3.32–3.38 (m, 2H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 7.39–7.42 (m, 2H), 8.09–8.12 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.7, 25.9, 26.1, 31.4, 37.4, 49.7, 106.6, 119.2, 125.9, 130.5, 130.9, 131.1, 145.5, 158.6. HRMS (EITOF) m/z: M⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₀BrNO. 403.1511; found. 403.1506.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N,N-5-triphenylfuran-3-amine (**3**). Colorless liquid, 96 mg (41% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.92–6.95 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.18–7.27 (m, 5H), 7.33–7.38 (m, 4H), 7.61–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.69 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 108.4, 121.0, 121.1, 122.3, 123.7, 125.5, 127.9, 128.3, 128.7, 129.2, 130.0, 130.6, 131.5, 145.2, 146.1, 152.5. HRMS (EI-TOF) m/z: M⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₂₀BrNO, 465.0728; found, 465.0725.

1-(2-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-phenylfuran-3-yl)piperidine (**3m**). Colorless liquid, 92 mg (48% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.53–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.73 (m, 4H), 2.83–2.86 (m, 4H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 7.20–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.83–7.85 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.0, 26.2, 53.5, 102.2, 119.3, 123.5, 125.3, 127.4, 128.6, 130.4, 130.6, 131.4, 139.9, 140.4, 151.3. HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₀BrNO, 381.0728; found, 381.0724.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.5b02211.

Experimental details and characterization data for all new compounds (PDF)

X-ray crystallographic data (CIF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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