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Copper-Catalyzed γ -Selective and Stereospecific Substitution Reaction of Allylic Carbonates with Diboron: Efficient Route to Chiral Allylboron Compounds

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Allylboron compounds are useful reagents for the stereoselective synthesis of homoallylic alcohols. A desirable but unprecedented method for the preparation of the boron reagent would be the γ -selective and stereospecific substitution reaction of an allyl alcohol derivative with a boron reagent. This would allow easy access to functionalized or optically active allylboron compounds. Herein, we report that a Cu(I) complex coordinated with the Xantphos ligand can catalyze the γ -selective substitution reaction of allylic carbonates with bis(pinacolato)diboron to afford the corresponding allylboronates. The reaction of the optically active allylic carbonates with an α -stereogenic center underwent α -to- γ chirality transfer with anti-stereochemistry, leading to chiral allylboronates with a boron-substituted stereogenic center.

During our continued investigations of group 11 metal-catalyzed reactions, we observed that a chelating phosphine (Xantphos) featuring a large natural bite-angle produced a remarkable rate-acceleration for copper-catalyzed hydrosilane alcoholysis. 12 This outcome suggested that the large bite-angle ligand would activate Cu(I)—OR for σ -bond metathesis with an H—Si bond of the hydrosilane to form a monomeric, highly active copper hydride, Cu(I)—H. Drawing an analogy between H—Si and B—B, it was hoped that Xantphos-ligated Cu—OR would react with a diboron reagent to form a Cu—B species useful as a "formal boryl nucleophile". 5,13 Formal $S_{\rm N}2'$ attack of the Cu—B species on an allylic carbonate would allow γ -selective formation of an allylboron compound along with a copper carbonate that would undergo decarboxylation to regenerate the Cu—OR. The reaction of allylic

Scheme 1. Expected Catalytic Cycle

BB
$$CO_2$$
 CO_2 CO_2

carbonate **1a** and bis(pinacolato)diboron **2** in the presence of Cu(O-*t*-Bu)—Xantphos catalyst (5 mol %) proceeded at room temperature to give the corresponding allylboronate in a quantitative yield with high regio- (**3a:3b** = 99:1) and *E/Z-* (*E-***3a**:*Z-***3a** = 97:3) selectivities (Table 1, entry 1). The use of a monophosphine

Table 1. Reaction of Allylic Carbonates with Diboron 2^a

				Selectivity ^c	
entry	catalyst	solvent	yield ^b (%)	3a/3b	E/Z (3a)d
1	Cu(O-t-Bu)-Xantphos	THF	100	99:1	97:3
2	Cu(O-t-Bu)-dppe	THF	11	>99:<1	62:38
3	Cu(O-t-Bu)-dppp	THF	44	>99:<1	97:3
4	Cu(O-t-Bu)-dppf	THF	37	>99:<1	96:4
5	Cu(O-t-Bu)-PPh ₃	THF	2	nd	nd
6	CuOTf-PBu ₃	DMF	0	nd	nd
$7^{e,f}$	CuCl-KOAc-LiCl	DMF	0	nd	nd
8^f	Pd(dba) ₂	DMSO	96	57:43	98:2

^a Conditions: catalyst (5 mol %), allylic carbonates **1a** (0.25 mmol), diboron **2** (0.5 mmol), and solvent (0.25 mL). ^b Yield of all allylboronates was determined by GC. ^c Ratio of regio- and E/Z-isomers was determined by GC. ^d The Z-isomer of **3b** was not detected. ^e Catalyst (110 mol %) was used. ^f Compound **2** (0.28 mmol) and 1.5 mL of the solvent were used.

(PPh₃) or other diphosphines (dppe, dppp, dppf), however, resulted in decreased catalytic activities (entries 2-6). In the case of dppe (entry 2), the product was obtained in a low yield with poor E/Zselectivity. Although the dppp (entry 3) and dppf (entry 4) complexes possessed higher activities and exhibited high regio- and E/Z-selectivities, their activities were still significantly lower than that of the Xantphos complex. The PPh3 complex (entry 5) was nearly inactive. Furthermore, CuOTf-PBu₃^{6,13} (entry 6) and the stoichiometric CuCl-KOAc-LiCl system^{5,6} (entry 7), which have been reported to catalyze the borylation of α,β -unsaturated compounds and allyl chloride, were ineffective for the reaction of 1a. Low-valent palladium complex Pd(dba)₂ (entry 8) catalyzed the conversion, but afforded a mixture of 3a and 3b in a ratio of 57:43; the low regioselectivity is attributable to the loss of regiochemical information of substrate 1a upon formation of a $(\pi$ -allyl)palladium(II) complex intermediate.²

A series of allylboronates was synthesized from allylic carbonates using the Cu(I)–Xantphos catalyst (Table 2). The Cu(I)-catalyzed reaction converted allylic carbonates $\bf 1a$ (Table 1, entry 1) and $\bf 1b$ (Table 2, entry 1) into $\bf 3a$ and $\bf 3b$, respectively, as major products. As shown in entries 2 and 3, high γ -selectivity was retained even when the allylic systems are located at the terminal of the carbon chain. Accordingly, carbonates $\bf 1c$ and $\bf 1d$ were converted into the branched ($\bf 3c$) and linear ($\bf 3d$) boronates, respectively. The reaction was applicable to cyclic carbonate $\bf 1e$ (entry 4). Allylboronates containing acetal, ester, and isolated alkene were also obtained in high yields (entries 5–7, respectively).

Table 2. Cu(I)—Xantphos-Catalyzed Reaction of Allylic Carbonates with Diboron **2**^a

entry	allylic carbonate	allylboronate	time (h)	yield ^b (%)
1 ^c Ph.	OCO ₂ Me	Ph B(pin) 3b	1.5	96 (92) ^d
2^{ef} P	OCO ₂ Me	Ph B(pin) 3c	2	75
3 ^e	OCO ₂ Me	Ph B(pin) 3d	1.5	98
48	1e OCO ₂ Me	3e B(pin)	47	74
5e	of the occoping occoping occoping occoping occoping occoping occoping occoping	O 3f B(pin)	3.5	88
_{6^{e,f}} <i>t</i> -B	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 3g B(pi	6 in)	86
7 ^e	OCO ₂ Me	B(pin) 3h	1	87

^a Conditions: catalyst (5 mol %), allylic carbonates **1a** (0.50 mmol), diboron **2** (1.0 mmol), and THF (0.5 mL) at room temperature. ^b Isolated yield of all allylboronates. ^e Isomeric ratio (**3a:3b** = 2:98, *E:Z* (for **3b**) = 97:3) was determined by GC. ^d Yield on a 5 mmol scale (reaction time: 3 h). ^e Isomeric purity of allylboronates was determined to be >97% by GC. ^f Catalyst (10 mol %) and 1.1 mmol of **2** were used. ^g Catalyst (10 mol %) and 1.0 mmol of **2** were used at 50 °C in toluene.

The reaction also offers an expeditious and general route to optically active allylboronates that have a stereogenic carbon with a boryl substituent. The reaction of (S)-(E)- $\mathbf{1i}$ (98% ee) with $\mathbf{2}$ in the presence of $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ - $\mathrm{Xantphos}$ catalyst (10 mol %) at 0 °C underwent an α -to- γ chirality transfer accompanied by only a slight loss of enantiomeric purity to afford (S)-(E)- $\mathbf{3i}$ (96% ee) along with a small amount of the α -substituted E-isomer and γ -Z-isomer (eq 1). On the other hand, the reaction of (S)-(Z)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(S)-(E)-(

In conclusion, the γ -selective and stereospecific copper-catalyzed substitution of allylic carbonates with a diboron reagent offers a convenient and powerful method for the synthesis of allylboronates. Investigations into the asymmetric synthesis of allylboronates based

upon displacements of prochiral allyl alcohol derivatives in the presence of an optically active copper catalyst are currently underway.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and compound characterization data (PDF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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