

Catalytic Dual 1,1-H-Abstraction/Insertion for Domino Spirocyclizations

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A catalytic domino spirocyclization of 1,7enynes with simple cycloalkanes and cyclo-1,3-dicarbonyls has been established via multiple C–C bond formations from alkynyl/alkenyl functions and dual α, α -C(sp³)-H abstraction/insertion. The reaction involves addition, 6*exo-dig* cyclization and radical coupling sequences under convenient catalytic conditions and provides a concise access to spiro cyclopenta[c]quinolines in good to excellent yields.

idely utilized for numerous challenging and intriguing syntheses, 1,n-enynes are privileged building blocks for substrate-specific domino cyclizations.^{1,2} They can readily result in multiple functionalities via synergistic cascade processes across C=C and C=C bonds of various substrates in one-pot fashions.³ So far, considerable efforts have been devoted to the use of 1,n-envnes for assembling highly complex structures of chemically and biomedically importance.⁴ Meanwhile, a transition-metal-catalyzed radical process for sp³ C-H bond functionalization has emerged as powerful tool for domino C-C/C-X bond formations due to its remarkable atom-economy potential.^{5,6} An extensive literature survey revealed that a single C–H bond functionalization on sp³ carbon atom has been widely studied.⁷ However, to the best of our knowledge, a dual $\alpha_{,\alpha}$ -C(sp³)-H activation/bifunctionalization on the same carbon atom has not be documented yet.

In recent years, our laboratories have been heavily involved in the development of domino bicyclization reactions for multiple ring formations.⁸ For this purpose, we planned the synthesis of arylalkynyl-anchored starting materials by taking advantage of a methodology invented by Nevado et al. in which the radical adds to the double bond of N-(arylsulfonyl)acrylamides, leading to the formation of aza-heterocycles through radical addition/arylmigration/desulfonylation sequence (Scheme 1a).⁹ Surprisingly, we found the expected products cannot be generated. Instead, the reaction occurred in a completely unexpected direction (Scheme 1b). Here, we would like to report this discovery (Scheme 2).

Scheme 1. Design of Radical Cyclization of 1,7-Enynes



Scheme 2. Cascade Spirocyclization of 1,7-Enynes



As shown in Scheme 2, it is particularly interesting and rare that dual radicals can be readily generated via α, α -C(sp³)-H activation under a one-pot catalytic condition, and they can participate in domino reaction consisting of the sequence of intermolecular α, β -conjugated addition, intramolecular radical addition onto 1,7-conjugated enynes 1 and radical cyclization. The present radical spirocyclization between 1,7-enynes and simple alkanes provides an easy access to a series of spirosubstituted cyclopenta[c]quinolines with two quaternary stereocenters serving for organic and medicinal research.

Initially, we chose methacrylamides 1a and cyclohexane $(2a)^{10}$ as the model substrates to optimize the reaction conditions (Table S1, see Supporting Information, SI). We found that the

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catalyst and radical initiator showed a significant impact on the reaction. The desired product was obtained in only 12% yield in the absence of any catalyst using TBHP (70% in water) as the oxidant (entry s1, SI). Raising the temperature did not enhance the chemical yield of 3a (entry s2, SI). Pleasingly, the use of anhydrous TBHP afforded a higher yield of 42%, which indicates that the presence of water severely hampered the domino process. Subsequently, other anhydrous oxidants, such as benzovl peroxide (BPO), tert-butvl peroxybenzoate (TBPB), K₂S₂O₈, dicumylperoxide (DCP), and di-tert-butyl peroxide (DTBP), were investigated, and it was found that DCP and DTBP are more efficient than other oxidants (entries s4-s8, SI). Among the latter two, DTBP was superior to DCP (entry s8, SI) as the oxidant. Encouraged by these results, a series of metal catalysts including CuI, CuO, Cu2O, FeCl2, and FeCl3 were employed for the system; FeCl₂ proved to give the highest catalytic activity (entry 12 vs entries s9-s11 and s13, SI). Accordingly, the amounts of both FeCl₂ and DTBP were examined (entries s14 and s15, SI); it turned out that 10 mol % of FeCl₂ and 4.0 equiv of DTBP gave the highest yield of 89%.

With the above conditions in hand, the scope of 1,7-enynes 1 was examined by reacting them with various simple cyclohexane 2a (Scheme 3). With the benzenesulfonyl protection group (Ar²) on the amine anchor, the variant of substituents on the arylalkynyl moiety including, Me, MeO, F, and Cl can tolerate the catalytic conditions well. Electronic effect of substituents on the arylalkynyl moiety showed an obvious impact on the reaction



^aReaction conditions: 1,7-conjugated enynes (0.25 mmol), $FeCl_2$ (0.025 mmol), DTBP (1.0 mmol), 2.0 mL of cyclohexane as solvent, 120 °C, 12 h. Isolated yields based on 1.

efficiency. Upon the treatment with substrate 1a, the desired product 3a was obtained in 89% yield. Interestingly, substrate 1a carrying electron-donating groups showed higher reactivity than those with electron-withdrawing counterparts (3b, 3c and 3f vs 3d and 3e). Electronic nature of substituents on both Narylsulfonyl (Ar²) and arylalkynyl (Ar¹) moieties was also probed. The reaction occurred smoothly with a variety of functional groups on both N-arylsulfonyl and arylalkynyl moieties of substrates 1. Reactions of substrates 1 involving both N-arylsulfonyl and arylalkynyl moieties attached by electron-donating groups all worked efficiently to give the spirocyclic cyclopenta [c] guinolines in 82% to 86% yields (3f. 3h. and 3i). The substrates 1 bearing -Cl and -F on N-phenyl moiety can also lead to the formation of cyclopenta[c]quinolines 3r-3uranging from 57%-66% yields. N-2-naphthalenylsulfonvl (2-Npsulfonyl) 1,7-enynes were successfully engaged in this radical cyclization cascades. Alternatively, N-methyl and N-ethyl 1,7enynes 1v-1x were successfully converted into the corresponding N-methyl and N-ethyl spirocyclic cyclopenta[c]quinolines 3v-3x in 50-70% yields (Scheme 3b). As expected, 1,7-envnes with a free amino group (1y) gave a complex mixture (Scheme 3b, 3y). Unfortunately, replacing methyl group with hydrogen on the terminal olefin unit, 1,7-conjugated enynes did not occur under the standard conditions, which indicates that the methyl group linked to terminal olefin unit plays a key role in the success of this reaction.

To expand the synthetic utility of this reaction, several cycloalkanes were employed to react with 1,7-enynes (Scheme 4). Using cyclopentane **2b** as replacement for cyclohexane **2a**,





^aReaction conditions: 1,7-conjugated enynes (0.25 mmol), FeCl_2 (0.025 mmol), DTBP (1.0 mmol), 2.0 mL of cycloalkane as solvent, 120 °C, 12 h. Isolated yields based on 1. ^b1,7-conjugated enynes (0.25 mmol), adamantine (1.25 mmol), DTBP (1.0 mmol), 2.0 mL of chlorobenzene as a solvent, 120 °C, 12 h.

different groups on 1,7-enynes were proven to be suitable for this domino process, providing the desired products 4a-4e in moderate to good yields (Scheme 4). In addition, cycloheptane **2c** and adamantine **2d** were also found to be suitable for this reaction. Our next efforts were on studying the feasibility of the radical spirocyclization using difunctional C-centered radicals, such as cyclo-1,3-dicarbonyls,¹¹ to replace cycloalkanes. The

reaction between 1,7-enynes 1e and 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione 2e was conducted. Surprisingly, the reaction cannot proceed under the above conditions, which forced us to search for a new condition with regard to catalysis, oxidants, and solvents. We found that the use of AgNO₃ (10 mol %) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (2.0 equiv) in the mixed solvent of CH₃CN and H₂O (v/ v: 4:1)^{9b} can drive the reaction to give product 5a in 74% yield (Scheme 5). A great scope is shown by various substituents,





^{*a*}Reaction conditions: 1,7-conjugated enynes (0.25 mmol), 5,5dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (0.50 mmol), AgNO₃ (0.025 mmol), $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.5 mmol), 2.0 mL of CH₃CN:H₂O = 4:1 as solvent, 60 °C, 20 h. Isolated yields based on 1.

including methoxyl, methyl, fluoro, and bromo on the arylalkyne moieties or on the sulfonyl-attached aryl rings of the substrates, affording spiro-cyclo-1,3-dicarbonyl-substituted cyclopenta[c]-quinolines **5a**–**5f** in 67%–90% chemical yields. Similarly, acrylamides attached with either electron-donating or -with-drawing moieties at the 4-position of *N*-sulfonyl aromatic rings were converted into the corresponding spiro-substituted cyclopenta[c]quinolines **5g**–**5i** in good yields as well.

It is well-known that barbituric acids loaded with pyrimidine motifs widely exist in natural compounds, and their derivatives can serve as anxiolytics, sleeping pills, antispasmodic, and central nervous system sedatives,^{12,13} and we thus explored the synthesis of these compounds by using 1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6-(1H,3H,5H)-trione (1,3-dimethyl barbituric acid) as biradical donors. To our delight, the reactions using various 1,7-conjugated enynes 1 in the presence of 10 mol % of AgNO₃ and 2.0 equiv of K₂S₂O₈ in a 4:1 ratio of MeCN-H₂O mixture at 60 °C led to the formation of products **6a**–**6h** in modest to good yields (Scheme 6). Substrates with different substitution patterns on the aromatic rings of both the alkynyl (Ar¹) and sulfonyl (Ar²) moieties in 1 can be efficiently converted into the corresponding tetracyclic spiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-2,5'-pyrimidine]-2',4,4',6'(3'H, SH)-tetraones **6a**–**6e** in good yields.

To understand the mechanism, the substrate 1q was subjected to reaction with 2 equiv of 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO) or butylhydroxytoluene (BHT) (Scheme 7a), but no expected product 3q was observed with the starting material 1qremaining. For the former reaction, the TEMPO-Cy adduct was detected by GC-MS (MS = 239.2) analysis, which indicates the possible radical mechanism. Subsequently, the deuterium labeling experiment was performed to show a significant kinetic





"Reaction conditions: 1,7-conjugated enynes (0.25 mmol), 1,3dimethylbarbituric acid (0.50 mmol), $AgNO_3$ (0.025 mmol), $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.5 mmol), 2.0 mL of $CH_3CN:H_2O$ = 4:1 as solvent, 60 °C, 20 h. Isolated yields based on 1.





"Reaction conditions: 1,7-conjugated enynes (0.25 mmol), $FeCl_2$ (0.025 mmol), DTBP (1.0 mmol), 2.0 mL of cyclohexane as solvent, 120 °C, 12 h.

isotope effect (KIE, KIE = 4.55) in an intermolecular competing reaction of **2a** and $[D_{12}]$ -**2a** (Scheme 7b), which confirmed that the rupture of $C(sp^3)$ -H bonds on the cyclohexane ring occurs at the rate-determining step.

On the basis of the above analysis and literature survey,^{2a,b,9b,11} the mechanisms were proposed and represented by the formation of spiro products 3-6, (see Supporting Information). In the former, the first step is to abstract H from the cycloalkanes by tert-butoxy radical generated in situ from the Fe(II))-assisted homolysis of DTBP. The resulting cycloalkyl radical undergoes an α_{β} -conjugated addition followed by intramolecular radical addition onto 1,7-conjugated enynes 1 to give radical intermediate A, which undergoes 6-exo-dig cyclization to afford vinyl radical intermediate B. The intramolecular radical coupling between vinyl radical B and the cycloalkyl radical leads to the formation of spiro product 3. The latter undergoes similar radical addition (1 to C), 6-exo-dig cyclization (C to D), and radical coupling (D to 5 and 6) sequences mediated by AgNO₃ and $K_2S_2O_8$ (Scheme 7). Although the generation of alkyl radicals triggered by various oxidants has been achieved well, the $\alpha_{1}\alpha_{2}$ C(sp³)-H bifunctionalization toward sprio-heterocycles via dual radical H-abstractions is very rare in organic chemistry as mentioned earlier.

In summary, we have discovered a new cascade spirocyclization reaction of 1,7-conjugated enynes with cycloalkanes and cyclo-1,3-dicarbonyls through a unpresented α , α -C(sp³)-H bifunctionalization activation under mild catalytic conditions. This reaction provides an easy access to a series of spiro cyclopenta[c]quinolines of chemical and biomedical importance. The bond-forming efficiency, accessibility of starting materials, functional group tolerance, and the scalable potential makes this reaction a powerful synthetic tool with a great substrate scope. Further investigation on the scope extension and asymmetric version of this reaction is currently underway in our laboratories.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Experimental details including product characterization and NMR-experiments. The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/ jacs.5b05735.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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