

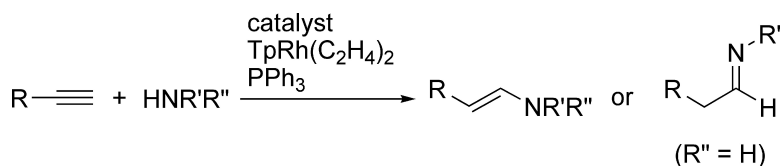
Communication

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## Anti-Markovnikov Addition of Both Primary and Secondary Amines to Terminal Alkynes Catalyzed by the $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$ System

Yoshiya Fukumoto,\* Harumi Asai, Masaki Shimizu, and Naoto Chatani

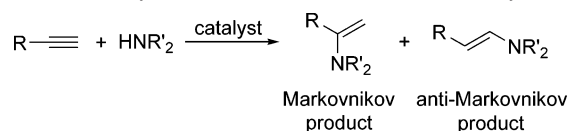
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



The simple addition of a N–H bond to a C–C double or triple bond, known as hydroamination, offers an attractive route for synthesis of highly substituted nitrogen-containing organic molecules without formation of any side products.<sup>1</sup> Hydroamination of alkynes provides either enamines or imines, which undergo further synthetic transformations,<sup>2</sup> the exact nature of which depends on the type of amine. In general, a wide variety of metals, including early- and late-transition metals, lanthanides, and actinides, have been employed in catalytic intermolecular hydroamination of terminal alkynes to yield Markovnikov products.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, hydroamination of terminal alkynes in anti-Markovnikov fashion is rare (Scheme 1). The first anti-Markovnikov hydroamination of terminal alkynes with primary amines was realized using of the organouranium complex,  $\text{Cp}^*\text{U}(\text{Me})_2$ , as a catalyst.<sup>4</sup> Subsequently, some titanocene derivatives have been applied to anti-Markovnikov alkyne hydroamination, although use of bulky primary amines, such as *tert*-butylamine and diphenylmethanamine, was required.<sup>5</sup> Recently, Schafer revealed the highly regioselective anti-Markovnikov hydroamination of terminal alkynes with a wide range of primary amines, catalyzed by bis(amidate)titanium complexes.<sup>6</sup> However, the complexes described above are not applicable to reactions with secondary amines because of the formation of imido–metal complexes ( $\text{RN}=\text{M}$ ) as a crucial intermediate in the catalytic cycle.<sup>7</sup> The only previous report of anti-Markovnikov addition of secondary amines to terminal alkynes was limited to the  $\text{Cs}(\text{OH})$ -catalyzed reaction of phenylacetylene with substituted anilines or *N*-heterocycles.<sup>8,9</sup> To the best of our knowledge, there is no catalytic system that allows both primary and secondary amines to react with terminal alkynes to give anti-Markovnikov products. We wish to disclose herein the anti-Markovnikov hydroamination of terminal alkynes not only with primary amines but also with secondary amines in the presence of a rhodium complex as a catalyst.

The initial hydroamination experiments of 1-octyne (0.5 mmol) with morpholine (1 mmol) at 100 °C for 24 h in a sealed-tube were performed to screen catalysts. Among the transition metal complexes examined,  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2$  ( $\text{Tp}$  = trispyrazolylborate) in combination with  $\text{PPh}_3$  showed catalytic activity to furnish (*E*)-1-morpholino-1-octene (**2a**) in 61% yield, without the formation of the *Z*-isomer or the Markovnikov adduct.<sup>10</sup> Treatment of  $\text{RhCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$  with commercially available  $\text{KTP}$  in situ also provided a catalyst with activity nearly comparable to that observed with the  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$  system (56% yield). Both  $\text{Tp}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  ligands were essential since the use of  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2$  or  $\text{RhCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$  alone afforded dimerization products of 1-octyne<sup>11</sup> instead of the hydroamination product. Other rhodium complex systems, such as  $[\text{RhCl}(\text{cod})_2]/\text{PPh}_3$ ,  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BF}_4/\text{PPh}_3$ ,<sup>12</sup>  $\text{CpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$ , and  $\text{Tp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$  ( $\text{Tp}^*$  = tris(3,5-dimethylpyrazolyl)borate), were ineffective catalysts for the formation of **2a**. To further optimize the reaction conditions, the use of 1.5 mmol of morpholine at a higher dilution (2 mL of toluene) improved the yield of **2a** to 70% (Table 1, entry 1); **2a** was directly reduced with  $\text{NaB}(\text{OAc})_3\text{H}$  to

**Scheme 1.** Catalytic Addition of Amines to Terminal Alkynes



**Table 1.**  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$ -Catalyzed Hydroamination of 1-Octyne with Amines<sup>a</sup>

$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}-\text{C}\equiv\text{C} + \text{HNRR}' \xrightarrow[\text{PPh}_3]{\text{catalyst TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2}$			$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}-\text{C}(\text{NRR}')=\text{C}-\text{H}$		
entry	amine	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	entry	amine	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1		70 ( <b>2a</b> )	4	HNBnMe	75 ( <b>2d</b> )
2		71 ( <b>2b</b> )	5	HNBuMe	70 ( <b>2e</b> )
3		73 ( <b>2c</b> )	6 <sup>c</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> NBn	52 ( <b>2f</b> )
			7 <sup>c</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> NOct	46 ( <b>2g</b> )
			8 <sup>c</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> N-N 	64 ( <b>2h</b> )

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 1-octyne (0.5 mmol), amine (1.5 mmol),  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2$  (0.05 mmol),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (0.1 mmol), in toluene (2 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. <sup>b</sup> Yields determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy with 1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup> For 6 h.

isolate 4-octylmorpholine (**2a'**) in 66% yield. Similarly, several cyclic (entries 2 and 3) and acyclic amines (entries 4 and 5) also reacted with **1a** to give the corresponding *E*-isomers, **2b–2e**, while reactions of **1a** with dibenzylamine and *N*-methylaniline did not take place. When primary amines, such as benzylamine and octylamine were used, aldimines **2f** and **2g** were obtained, respectively, in moderate yields (entries 6 and 7). In contrast to the results of our previous study, which demonstrated that the  $\text{TpRuCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ -catalyzed reaction of terminal alkynes with hydrazines yields nitriles,<sup>13</sup> the  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$  system converted **1a** to hydrazone **2h** in 64% yield.

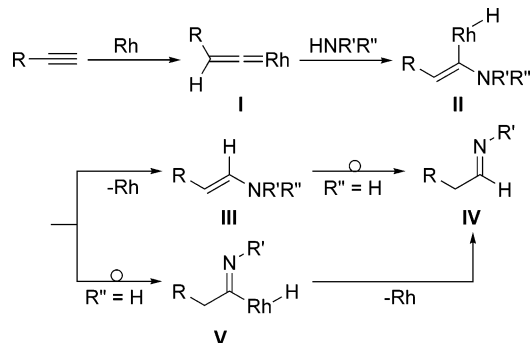
Table 2 summarizes the results for the reaction of alkynes with benzylmethylamine (left column) and benzylamine (right column).<sup>14</sup> Both amines reacted with alkynes **1b–1d** to give the corresponding *E*-enamines **3b–3d** or imines **4b–4d**, respectively (entries 1–3). The reaction also occurred in the presence of functional groups, such as siloxy (**1e**), ester (**1f**), and nitrile (**1g**), on the terminal alkynes (entries 4–6). Alkynes **1h–1j** reacted with benzylmethylamine to yield **3h–3j**. In contrast, those of benzylamine gave no or little product with recovery of the starting alkynes, although the reasons for the lack of reaction remain unknown (entries 7–9). 2-Octyne, as an internal alkyne, did not react both with primary and secondary amines under the present reaction conditions at all.

Although details of the reaction mechanism are ambiguous, the formation of a vinylidene–rhodium complex<sup>15</sup> **I** seems likely to

**Table 2.** Scope of the Anti-Markovnikov Hydroamination of Terminal Alkynes with Amines Catalyzed by  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3^a$ 

entry	alkyne	yields (%) <sup>b</sup>	
		HNBnMe <sup>c</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> NBn <sup>d</sup>
1		85 (3b)	44 (4b)
2		81 (3c)	62 (4c)
3		73 (3d)	67 (4d)
4		82 (3e)	48 (4e)
5		73 (3f)	21 (4f)
6		58 (3g)	36 (4g)
7		53 (3h)	0
8		64 (3i)	trace
9		72 (3j)	trace

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: alkyne (0.5 mmol), amine (1.5 mmol),  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2$  (0.05 mmol),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (0.1 mmol), in toluene (2 mL) at 100 °C. <sup>b</sup> Yields determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy with 1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup> For 24 h. <sup>d</sup> For 6 h.

**Scheme 2.** Plausible Reaction Mechanism

be included in the reaction mechanism, as shown in Scheme 2, explaining that both primary and secondary amines add to the terminal carbon of alkynes. A terminal alkyne reacts with a rhodium complex to give **I**, which undergoes nucleophilic attack of an amine at the  $\alpha$ -carbon atom of **I** to afford an  $\alpha$ -aminovinylrhodium complex **II**.<sup>9,16</sup> Reductive elimination from **II** gives the enamine **III**. The aldimine **IV** forms either by tautomerization from **III** or via the iminorhodium complex **V**. The reaction of 1-deuterio-1-

octyne with benzylamine to obtain information about the reaction mechanism was unsuccessful, as it resulted in rapid H/D scramble.

In summary, we have demonstrated herein the  $\text{TpRh}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2/\text{PPh}_3$ -catalyzed anti-Markovnikov hydroamination of terminal alkynes both with primary and secondary amines. Efforts are currently underway to investigate the scope and mechanism of the reaction.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental procedures and characterization of all new compounds (PDF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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