Stereoselective Photocycloaddition of Alkenes to Naphthalene Rings Assisted by Hydrogen Bonding

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ABSTRACT



Introduction of a hydrogen-bonding substituent to 1-cyanonaphthalene and alkene resulted in the selective formations of *endo*-photocycloadducs. Furthermore, the yield and selectivity were improved as the reaction temperature was lowered.

Photoinduced reactions have been used as key transformations in many organic syntheses to construct organic compounds having unique structures that were barely accessible by other methods.¹ [2 + 2] photocycloaddition of two carbon-carbon double bonds is one such photoreaction. Many synthetic applications of this reaction have been reported, and their stereoselectivities were discussed in terms of the electronic nature of substrates, the steric repulsions between substituents, and the conformational restrictions of intramoleculer reactions.²

It can be highly attractive to use hydrogen bonds³ to control regio- and stereoselectivity, because hydrogenbonding substituents such as hydroxyl and amino groups frequently interact with other functional groups or heteroatoms. While many thermal reactions are disturbed by hydrogen-bonding substituents, this is not the case in certain photocycloadditions. There are some photoreactions in which the regio- or stereoselectivity is controlled by hydrogen bonds, but all of them have limitations: some of these reactions are such that the reactive or chromophoric site of the reactant participates in the hydrogen bond,⁴ and the others are intramolecular reactions.⁵ Because hydrogen bonds can be formed independent of photoexcitation and the succeeding reaction, the stereoselectivity of an intermolecular photoreaction might be controlled by introduction of a hydrogenbonding substituent to an appropriate position of the reac-

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Table 1. Substituent Effect of Photocycloadditions of 1 and 2 in Benzene^a

	reactants		cycloadducts				
entry	X	Y	3	4	yield (%) b	3/4	recovery of 1 (%)
1	Н (1а)	OH (2a)	3aa	4aa	41	0.72	24
2	CH ₃ (1b)	2a	3ba	4ba	22	0.84	45
3	CH ₂ OH (1c)	2a	3ca	4ca	42	3.3	18
4	CH ₂ OCH ₃ (1d)	2a	3da	4da	47	2.4	33
5	1c	OCH ₃ (2b)	3cb	4cb	22	1.7	62
6	1d	2b	3db	4db	18	0.95	40
^a Irradiation	s were carried out at roor	n temperature for 20-	–21 h. ^b Isolate	ed yields of $3 +$	- 4.		

tants. We designed such a photoreaction and report here that excellent selectivity was achieved. As a photoreaction, we chose the [2 + 2] photocycloaddition between 4-substituted 1-cyanonaphthalenes (1) and 1-substituted 3-methyl-2-butenes (2).^{6,7} As shown in Scheme 1, this reaction is suitable



for investigation of hydrogen-bonding effects because it gave two stereoisomers (3 and 4) regioselectively and an attractive interaction between X and Y would form a complex (5) in the ground and/or excited states that could give 3 selectively.

Table 1 summarizes the substituent effect of the photocycloaddition of 1 to 2 in benzene solution.⁸ When X and Y can form a hydrogen bond, the *endo*-isomers (3) were preferentially formed over the *exo*-isomers (4) (entries 3-5). However, if the combination of X and Y was unable to form a hydrogen bond, no selectivity was observed (entries 1, 2, and 6). While 1d and 2b seemed to have dipole moments similar to those of 1c and 2a, respectively, photocycloaddition between these compounds showed no *endo*-selectivity (entry 6). Thus, a contribution of dipole interactions to the endo-selectivity should be negligible. Solvent and temperature effects were investigated in the photocycloaddition of 1c to 2a (Table 2).⁸ At room temper-

Table 2. Solvent and Temperature Effect of Photocycloaddition of 1c to $2a^a$

entry	solvent	temp ^b	yield (%) ^c	3ca/4ca	recovery (1c , %)
1	benzene	rt	42	3.3	18
2	CH_2Cl_2	rt	33	3.4	10
3	CH_2Cl_2	−20 °C	28	6.6	trace
4	CH ₂ Cl ₂	−60 °C	73	13	trace
5	CH ₃ CN	rt	39	1.6	10
6	5% MeOH -95% CH ₃ CN	rt	32	1.7	20
7	MeOH	rt	28	1.0	17

^{*a*} Irradiations were carried out for 20 h. ^{*b*} rt indicates room temperature. ^{*c*} Isolated yields of 3ca + 4ca.

ature, photocycloaddition in benzene (entry 1) and in CH_2 - Cl_2 (entry 2) gave **3ca** preferentially over **4ca** in the ratio of 3:1. Use of more polar solvents such as CH_3CN (entry 5) and 5% MeOH-95% CH_3CN (entry 6) decreased the selectivity, and no selectivity was observed in MeOH (entry 7). This decrease of selectivity can be explained by the disruption of hydrogen bonds between hydroxyl groups of

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Figure 1. Variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectrum of 1c and 2a (300 MHz, CD_2Cl_2). \downarrow and \uparrow indicate the resonances of hydroxylic protons of 1c and 2a, respectively. (a) 1c (27 mM) at +20 °C. (b) 2a (60 mM) at +20 °C (c-g) A mixture of 1c (27 mM) and 2a (48 mM) at +20 °C (c), 0 °C (d), -20 °C (e), -40 °C (f), and -60 °C (g). (h) 1c (27 mM) at -60 °C. (i) 2a (60 mM) at -60 °C.

1c and **2a** by the polar solvent: the hydrogen bonds were weakened in polar aprotic solvents and completely disrupted in protic solvents. The effect of temperature was examined in CH₂Cl₂. Lowering the reaction temperature to -20 °C increased the ratio of **3ca:4ca** (entry 3), and irradiation at -60 °C gave a highly selective formation of *endo*-isomer (**3ca:4ca** = 13:1) in a high yield (73%) (entry 4).

The contribution of the hydrogen bond to the *endo*selectivity was also examined by low-temperature ¹H NMR (Figure 1). It is known that hydroxylic protons move downfield when they participate in hydrogen bonding and that the change in chemical shift is proportional to the extent of hydrogen bonding.^{3,9} At 20 °C, mixing of **1c** and **2a** led to downfield shifts of their hydroxylic proton resonances, indicating that the types of hydrogen bonds in **6** and **7** were favored over those in **8** and **9** (Figure 2). When the mixture was cooled, the hydroxylic proton resonances shifted to a lower field, and the extent of their shifts at -60 °C was



Figure 2.

larger than those of individual solutions. This result suggests that lowering the temperature increased the dominance of **6** and **7** in the ground state and that photocycloadditions via such a hydrogen-bonded complex gave the *endo*-adducts selectively.

In conclusion, we examined the stereoselectivity in the photocycloaddition of 1 and 2 and demonstrated that introduction of a hydroxyl group to these molecules gave *endo*-cycloadducts with excellent selectivity in high yields. We also revealed that the formation of a hydrogen bond in the ground state is essential in this selectivity.

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