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Copper-Mediated Synthesis of *N*-Acyl Vinylogous Carbamic Acids and Derivatives: Synthesis of the Antibiotic CJ-15,801

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ABSTRACT

Copper(I)-mediated C—N bond formation has been employed to prepare both *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic acids and ureas. The novel *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic acid antibiotic, CJ-15,801, was synthesized using this methodology.

The *N*-acyl vinylogous urea is a uncommon moiety present in a number of bioactive natural products, including palytoxin, enamidonin (1), and the recently isolated cyclic lipopeptides K97-0239A and B (2a,b) (Figure 1). Recently, the novel *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic (β -amido acrylic) acid containing molecule, CJ-15,801 (3), was reported as an inhibitor of multiple-drug-resistant (MDR) *Staphylococcus aureus* strains. On the basis of our previous work on the Cu(I)-catalyzed formation of enamides, we planned to

extend this C-N bond-formation methodology⁶ to coupling of amides with β -iodo-acrylates and acrylamides to prepare both N-acyl vinylogous carbamic acids and ureas. In this Letter, we report our initial studies on this amidation process and application to the synthesis of the antibiotic CJ-15,801 and analogues.

Previous approaches to N-acyl vinylogous carbamic acids and ureas include acylation of vinylogous carbamates (β -aminoacrylates) followed by deprotection of the correspond-

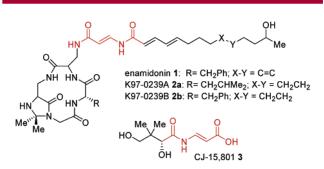


Figure 1. Representative natural products containing *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic acids and ureas.

Cu(I)-catalyzed formation of enamides,⁵ we planned to

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Scheme 1. Synthetic Routes to *N*-Acyl Vinylogous Carbamic Acids and Ureas

ing esters, 7 Pd (II)-catalyzed coupling of lactams and alkenes,8 and elimination of thioacetals and phenylselenides to prepare the N-acyl vinylogous urea side chain of palytoxin.⁹ In the latter methodology, Z-isomers were generally observed as the major, thermodynamic products. An overview of our current approach is depicted in Scheme 1. We have developed two routes to N-acyl vinylogous ureas using Cu(I)-catalyzed amidation. In route A, amidation of (E)-allyl- β -iodoacrylate 4^{10} affords N-acyl vinylogous carbamate 5. Pd(0)-catalyzed deallylation¹¹ of **5** should afford *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic (β -amidoacrylic) acid **6**, a substructure found in CJ-15,801. Amide coupling of 6 and amines provides N-acyl vinylogous ureas 7. In route B, direct amidation of 3-iodo-N-alkyl-2-propenamides 8 affords 7, which may also form the corresponding Z-isomers under thermodynamic control.9

Initial investigation of the cross-coupling of (*E*)-allyl- β -iodo acrylate **4** and benzamide (Table 1) with copper(I) thiophene-2-carboxylate (CuTC)¹² as the catalyst and Cs₂-CO₃ as base afforded the desired product **5a** in trace amounts. However, addition of 1,10-phenanthroline **9a**¹³ as ligand improved the yield of **5a** to 33% (entry 1).¹⁴ CuI and Cu-(CH₃CN)₄PF₆¹⁵ were also examined as Cu(I) sources, in which case it was found that Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆ afforded a

Table 1. Evaluation of Copper Sources and Bases^a

entry	Cu source	base (equiv)	amide (equiv)	yield (%) ^b	4 (%) ^c
1	CuTC	$Cs_2CO_3(2.0)$	1.5	33	0
2	CuI	$Cs_2CO_3(2.0)$	1.5	36	0
3	Cu(CH ₃ CN) ₄ PF ₆	$Cs_2CO_3(2.0)$	1.5	38	0
4	Cu(CH ₃ CN) ₄ PF ₆	$Rb_2CO_3(2.0)$	1.5	33	15
5	Cu(CH ₃ CN) ₄ PF ₆	$K_2CO_3(2.0)$	1.5	13	83
6	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$	$Rb_2CO_3(3.0)$	3.0	45	10

^a Reaction conditions: 10 mol % Cu source, 20 mol % ligand **9a**, 1.0 equiv of vinyl iodide **4**. ^b HPLC yields using benzophenone as internal standard. ^c Recovered **4** based on same HPLC analysis.

slightly improved yield (entry 3). In contrast to copper sources, different bases showed significant effects on reaction yields (entries 3–5). The weaker base K₂CO₃ afforded very low conversion (entry 5). Although the highest yield (38%) was obtained using Cs₂CO₃, severe decomposition of product **5a** and competitive dimerization of **4**^{12b} were observed in control experiments. Rb₂CO₃ afforded optimal results employing an excess of amide (entry 6) and was used for further amidation experiments. A variety of ligands, including 3,4,7,8-tetramethyl-1,10-phenanthroline **9b**, ^{13c,16} 1,4-diaza-1,3-butadienes (DAB) **9c**, bis(arylimino)acenaphthenes (Ar-BIAN) **9d**, ¹⁷ and 2,2'-bipyridine **9e**, were next evaluated to further improve the yield of **5a** (Figure 2). In this case,

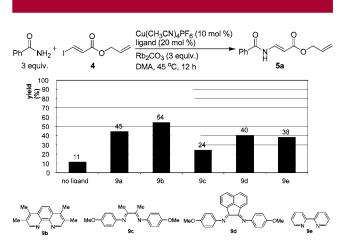


Figure 2. Evaluation of 1,10-phenanthroline and diimine ligands. Yields are based on HPLC analysis using benzophenone as internal standard.

phenanthroline ligand 9b showed noticeable improvement over the parent 9a and was employed for subsequent experiments. 18

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Table 2. Scope and Limitations^a

8 H			ŀ, н	
entry	amide	time (h)	product	yielo (%)
1	NH ₂	12		55 71°
2	NH ₂	12	5a	43
3	Ne Me NH ₂ NH ₂ Ne Me Me 10	19	Me Me Sc	90
4	Me Me 10	15	Me Me 5c	61
5	o P	15	5d	6
6	NH ₂	12	Me Sf	58 ^{c,d}
7	H N Me	12	5f H N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	77
8	NH	12	N Sh	92 ^e
9	Me NH NH	12	Me Ne 5i	72
10	Me Me NH ₂	12	Me Me N Ph	70 ^f
11	NH	12	N Ph 7b	72 ^f
12	Ph NH ₂	12	Ph H O 11a	25 ^f
13	Me NH ₂	12	Me Name of the part of the par	18 ^f

^a Reaction conditions: 10 mol % Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆, 20 mol % ligand **9b**, 1.0 equiv of vinyl iodide **4** or **8**, 3.0 equiv of amide, and 3.0 equiv of Rb₂CO₃. ^b All yields are based on pure materials isolated by silica gel or neutral aluminum oxide chromatography. ^c DME as solvent. ^d 20 mol % Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆ was employed. ^e Reaction performed at 70 °C.

Substrate scope was next investigated employing Cu(CH₃-CN)₄PF₆, **9b** as ligand, Rb₂CO₃ as base, and DMA as solvent (Table 2). Amidation of vinyl iodide **4** with (*R*)-2,2,5,5-

tetramethyl-1,3-dioxane-4-carboxamide $(10)^{19}$ afforded *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamate 5c (entry 3), a precursor to CJ-15,801, in excellent yield. However, other primary amides afforded only moderate yields of the desired coupling products. We speculate that chelation of the α -oxygen²⁰ of amide 10 may stabilize the putative copper intermediate (Figure 3a). Further experiments supported this general

Figure 3.

hypothesis. As shown in entries 4 and 5, tetrahydro-2-furamide and cyclopentane-carboxamide demonstrated a significant difference in reaction yields. However, in contrast to Cu(II)-mediated *N*-arylation of amides,²¹ no apparent α-nitrogen chelation effect was observed employing picolinamide (cf. entries 1 and 2). Lactams such as 2-pyrrolidinone afforded excellent yields at room temperature (entry 8). In contrast, *N*-alkylated secondary amides such as *N*-methylacetamide and *N*-methylbenzamide were found to be substantially less reactive except for *N*-methylformamide, which underwent efficient coupling (entry 7).

After a brief survey of solvents to optimize C-N bond formation employing sorbamide, a model for the side chain of enamidonin and K97-0239A and B, we found that 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME)²² was a superior solvent to DMA. The yield significantly increased from less than 10% in DMA to 58% in DME (Table 2, entry 6). Entries 10–13 illustrate a one-step route to *N*-acyl vinylogous ureas by direct coupling of 3-iodo-*N*-benzyl-2-propenamide 8 and amides. Interestingly, coupling of conjugated amides and vinyl iodide 8 produced the thermodynamic *Z*-isomers 11a and 11b (entries 12 and 13). This preference may be related to the higher acidity of the NH in conjugated amides,²³ which favors the formation of an intramolecular hydrogen bond and stabilizes the *Z*-isomer (Figure 3b).^{7a,9}

The synthesis of CJ-15,801 was next completed from amidation product **5c**. Because of the acid-labile nature of *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic acids, mild and neutral deprotection methods were required. Deprotection of acetonide **5c** with BiCl₃ (aq CH₃CN, rt)²⁴ afforded allyl ester **12** (75%).

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More strongly acidic conditions (e.g., *p*-TsOH) afforded R-(-)-pantolactone **13** as the major product. Finally, CJ-15,801 **3** was obtained in 80% yield by deprotection of allyl ester **12** using Pd(PPh₃)₄ in conjunction with polymer-supported *N*-hydroxy-phthalimide **14** as an allyl cation scavenger.²⁵ Other allyl acceptors (e.g., morpholine, HOBt, PS-HOBt, and *N*-hydroxyphthalimide) were not effective due to the presence of byproducts that were difficult to separate from the labile target **3**. Synthetic CJ-15,801 was confirmed to be identical to a natural sample by 1 H and 13 C NMR, MS., [α]_D, and reverse-phase HPLC analysis. *ent*-**3** and analogues **6a,b** and **15** were similarly prepared for exploration of their biological activities (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2. Synthetic Route to CJ-15,801 and Analogues^a

^a Reaction conditions: (a) BiCl₃, aq CH₃CN, rt, 5 h, 75% (b) Pd(PPh₃)₄, **14**, THF, 35 °C, 12 h, 80%.

To access the (*E*)-*N*-acyl vinylogous urea isomers required for enamidonin and K97-0239A and B (Figure 1), we have performed amide formation using *N*-acyl carbamic acids (Scheme 3). In line with our previously described route to CJ-15,801 (Scheme 2), we planned to utilize polymersupported reagent methodologies²⁶ to facilitate isolation of labile and potentially polar products. Coupling of *N*-acyl vinylogous carbamic acid **6a** with PS-HOBT²⁷ using ACTU²⁸

Scheme 3. Alternative Route to *N*-Acyl Vinylogous Ureas^a

$$6a \xrightarrow{a} \begin{bmatrix} O \\ N \\ 16 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{N} \begin{bmatrix} N \\ N \\ O \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{N} \begin{bmatrix} N \\ N \\ O \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{b} Ph \xrightarrow{N} \begin{bmatrix} O \\ N \\ 7c \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{Ph} Ph$$

^a Reaction conditions: (a) PS-HOBt, ACTU, 2,6-lutidine, DMF, rt, 4 h; (b) BnNH₂, THF, rt, 2 h, 81%

as coupling reagent led to active ester resin **16**. Treatment of the resin (2 equiv) with benzylamine (1 equiv) led to (E)-N-acyl vinylogous urea **7c** in high yield (81%) and purity (93%).²⁹

In conclusion, copper(I)-mediated coupling of amides with β -iodo-acrylates and acrylamides has been employed to prepare N-acyl vinylogous carbamates and ureas. The N-acyl vinylogous carbamic acid antibiotic CJ-15,801 and analogues have been prepared using this methodology. Further investigation on the reaction scope and applications toward complex targets such as the N-acyl vinylogous urea lipopeptides will be reported in future publications.

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

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(29) Purity was determined by HPLC-ELSD (Waters Xterra RPC₁₈ column (4.6 mm × 30 mm), 5–95% CH₃CN/H₂O over 2 min).

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