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FERRIC CHLORIDE-CATALYZED REDUCTIVE HALOGENATION OF CARBONYL COMPOUNDS TO BROMIDES AND IODIDES

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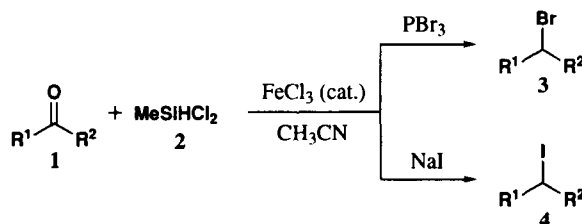
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The direct replacement of the hydroxy group by halogen is a well-known method for the synthesis of aralkyl halides.¹ Other methods such as bromodecarboxylation of carboxylates of Ag (I), Hg (II), Pb (IV) and Tl (I) with bromine² or, less frequently, the photocatalyzed side-chain halogenation of alkylarenes have also been reported.³ Iodoalkanes are usually obtained by halogen exchange from an alkyl chloride or bromide.⁴ However, the direct conversion of carbonyl compounds into organic halides has remained largely unexplored. Corre and co-workers⁵ described the reductive bromination of aromatic carbonyl compounds using trimethylamine-borane complex (TMAB) and bromine, however, with a strong electron-withdrawing substituent on the benzene ring, the amount of bromination was low. The direct synthesis of benzyl halides from aromatic aldehydes using alkylboron dibromides⁶ or a combination of chlorotrimethylsilane (TMSCl), 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (TMDS) and either LiBr or NaI⁷ has been reported, but these methods failed with ketones. In our studies for the direct conversion of carbonyl compounds into the halides, it was found that FeCl₃ is a versatile catalyst for the synthesis of organic chlorides.⁸ Herein we report the FeCl₃ catalyzed one-flask conversion of

carbonyl compounds (**1**) into the corresponding bromides and iodides in the presence of dichloromethylsilane.

When a mixture of carbonyl compounds, dichloromethylsilane and PBr_3 or NaI was treated with catalytic amount of FeCl_3 in CH_3CN for 4-24 h (Table), the corresponding organic bromides (**3**) or iodides (**4**) were obtained in moderate to good yields. Both aromatic carbonyl compounds (aldehydes and ketones) (**1a-1j**) and aliphatic aldehydes (**1k, 1l**) underwent the deoxygenative halogenation catalyzed by the FeCl_3 . Ester and nitro groups (**1f, 1g, 1h**) were not affected (Scheme 1).



- a) $\text{R}^1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; b) $\text{R}^1 = 4\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; c) $\text{R}^1 = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; d) $\text{R}^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$;
 e) $\text{R}^1 = 4\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; f) $\text{R}^1 = 4\text{-MeO}_2\text{CC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; g) $\text{R}^1 = 3\text{-NO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; h) $\text{R}^1 = 4\text{-NO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; i) $\text{R}^1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{Me}$; j) $\text{R}^1 = 4\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{Me}$; k) $\text{R}^1 = \text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$; l) $\text{R}^1 = \text{C}_7\text{H}_{15}$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$

Scheme 1

Table. FeCl_3 -Catalyzed Deoxygenative Bromination and Iodination of Carbonyl Compounds

Entry	Reductive Bromination ^a				Reductive Iodination ^b			
	Product	Yields ^c (%)	Time (h)	mp. or bp./mm (lit.) (°C)	Product	Yields ^c (%)	Time (h)	mp. or bp./mm (lit.) (°C)
1	3a	97	4	197-199 (198) ^{7a}	4a	94	6	23-24 (25) ^{7a}
2	3b	92	5	48-51 (48-50) ^{7a}	4b	72	23	57-61 (59-61) ^{7a}
3	3c	93	4	107-109/8 (95-98/0.4) ^{7a}	4c	81	17	25-26 (26-27) ^{10b}
4	3d	90	5	103-104/10 (106-109/15) ^{7b}	4d	62	13	44-46 (46) ^{10a}
5	3e	55	4	145-147/30 (145-148/30) ^{7b}	4e	90	16	25-27 (27) ^{10a}
6	3f	82	4	54-55 (53-55) ^{7b}	4f	95	21	76 (76-77) ^{10c}
7	3g	75	6	56-58 (57-58) ^{7c}	4g	95	21	83-85 (82-85) ^{7b}
8	3h	92	6	94-98 (95-98) ^{7c}	4h^d	90	15	
9	3i	87	4	96 (16mm) ^{7c}	4i	71	24	71-82/2 (70-80/2) ^{10d}
10	3j	90	10	57-58 (0.11mm) ^{7c}	4j^d	82	23	
11	3k	42	7	128-130 (130) ⁹	4k	65	12	170-172 (174) ^{10c}
12	3l	50	7	112-114/27 (83-85/10) ⁹	4l	66	12	119-120/65 (120-121/65) ^{10f}

a) All reactions were carried out with carbonyl compounds **1** (10.0 mmol), FeCl_3 (0.5 mmol), PBr_3 (11.0 mmol) and dichloromethylsilane (15.0 mmol) in reflux CH_3CN . b) Reaction conditions: carbonyl compounds **1** (10.0 mmol), FeCl_3 (0.5 mmol), NaI (15.0 mmol) and dichloromethylsilane (15.0 mmol) in reflux CH_3CN . c) Yields based on **1** used. d) The products exhibited physical and spectral characteristics in accord with literature values.

In summary, we have described the first FeCl_3 catalyzed reductive bromination and iodination of carbonyl compounds as a useful method for the synthesis of organic bromides or iodides.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Acetonitrile was distilled from phosphorus pentoxide immediately prior to use. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 683 spectrometer in KBr with absorption in cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra were determined on a Bruker AC 400 MHz instrument with CCl_4 used as the solvent. Chemical shifts are expressed in δ downfield from internal standard tetramethylsilane. Mass spectra were recorded on a HP5989B mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses were carried out on an EA 1110 instrument.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Organic Bromides (3a-3l) and Iodides (4a-4l).

Anhydrous FeCl_3 (81 mg, 0.5 mmol) in acetonitrile (50 mL) was added to a three-necked flask with stirring at room temperature. When the color of the mixture turned to yellow, the carbonyl compound (10 mmol), dichloromethylsilane (15 mmol) and PBr_3 (11 mmol) or NaI (15 mmol) were added to the solution. The resulting mixture was refluxed for indicated time (Table) until the disappearance of carbonyl compounds (monitored by TLC). Then it was cooled to room temperature, quenched with dilute hydrochloric acid (0.2 M) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO_3 (30 mL) and saturated brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford the desired products.

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**PREPARATION OF NOVEL QUINO[3,4-C]-, QUINO[4,3-C], QUINO[5,6-C]-,
QUINO[6,5-C]-, AND QUINO[7,8-C][2,7]NAPHTHYRIDINE**

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Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons containing one or more nitrogen atoms in place of a carbon atom (azaPAH or azaarenes) are ubiquitous environmental pollutants emanating from various sources, including the fossil fuel industry, tobacco smoking, wood preservation, pesticides, cooked high-protein foods and pharmaceuticals. Like their carbocyclic counterparts, azaarenes have been shown to possess mutagenic and carcinogenic activity that can vary greatly between regioisomers.¹ As a result, there continues to be interest in developing synthetic methodologies for the preparation of a large variety of azaarene ring systems so that a more complete structure-activity profile can be deduced.

For the past 15 years, we have been investigating an intramolecular pyridyne cyclization strategy for the synthesis of the benzo[c][2,7]naphthyridine ring system **3**, a structural feature common to many natural products exhibiting biological activity.²

The pyridyne cyclization precursors **1** can be readily obtained from reductive amination of 5-bromonicotinaldehyde and the appropriate aromatic amine. Utilizing this methodology,