Diverse Mechanistic Pathways and Selectivities in Organo-f-Element-Catalyzed Hydroamination. Intermolecular Organolanthanide-Catalyzed Alkyne and Alkene Hydroamination

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Summary: Lanthanide metallocenes catalyze the regiospecific intermolecular addition of primary amines to acetylenic, olefinic, and diene substrates at rates which are $\sim 1/1000$ those of the most rapid intramolecular analogues. Kinetic and mechanistic data argue for turnover-limiting C = C/C = C insertion into a Ln-Nbond, followed by protonolysis of the resulting Ln-Cbond.

Organolanthanides of the type L_2LnR ($L = \eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyl-type ancillary ligand) are efficient catalysts for the regiospecific intramolecular cyclohydroamination of aminoalkenes¹ and aminoalkynes² (eqs 1 and 2; X =



NH, NR'), as well as sequential hydroamination/bicyclizations involving both C=C and C=C functionalities.³ Although these exothermic intramolecular processes (overall $\Delta H_{calcd} \approx -13$ and -35 kcal/mol, respectively)^{1,2} are thought to enjoy (heretofore unquantified) entropic advantages (presumably both kinetic and thermodynamic),⁴ virtually nothing of a comparative nature is known about the efficiency, scope, and mechanism of the corresponding *intermolecular* processes.^{5–7} We communicate here initial observations on the organolanthanide-catalyzed intermolecular hydroamination of alkenes and alkynes.8 These results present a marked contrast to what is known about the intramolecular

cyclizations as well as to actinide-catalyzed intermolecular processes reported by Eisen et al. in the accompanying communication.9

The rigorously anhydrous/anaerobic reaction of primary alkyl amines (0.30 M) with various alkynes, alkenes, and dienes (1.2 M) was carried out in hydrocarbon solvents using Cp'2LnCH(SiMe3)2 and Me2SiCp"2-LnCH(SiMe₃)₂ complexes (Cp' = η^{5} -Me₅C₅; Cp'' = η^{5} - Me_4C_5 ; Ln = Sm, Nd)¹⁰ as precatalysts (6.0 mM).¹¹ Reaction rates and selectivities were monitored by ¹H/ ¹³C NMR, and known products were identified by comparison with literature data¹² and/or with those of authentic samples. New compounds were characterized by 1-D and 2-D ¹H/¹³C NMR as well as by highresolution MS.¹¹ The reactions proceed with >95% regiospecifically, and the results are presented in Table 1. Entry 2 was carried out on a preparative scale, and product 2 was isolated in 62% yield.¹³

A number of aspects of the present intermolecular catalytic transformations are noteworthy and offer informative, quantitative parallels and contrasts to the corresponding organolanthanide-catalyzed intramolecular processes. The present transformations are effective for the hydroamination of both nonfunctionalized (Table 1, entries 4 and 5) and silyl-functionalized/polarized

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Table 1. Intermolecular Hydroamination Results

Entry	Substrates	Product	N _t ,h ⁻¹ (°C)	Yield(%
1.	Me ₃ Si-C≡C-CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂	Me ₃ Si -N	$< 0.01(60)^{a}$ $< 0.1(60)^{b}$ $4(60)^{c}$ $14(60)^{d}$	90 ^g
2.	Me ₃ Si-C≡C-CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂	Me ₃ Si 2	3.4(60) ^c 8(50) ^d 13(60) ^{d,e}	62 ^f
3.	Me ₃ Si-C≡C-CH ₃ (CH ₃) ₂ CHCH ₂ NH ₂	Me ₃ Si 3	10(60) ^d	90 ^g
4.	Ph-C≡C-CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂		2(60) ^d	85 ^g
5.	CH ₃ -C≡C-CH ₃ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂		1(60) ^d	91 ^g
6.	Me ₃ Si-CH=CH ₂ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂	Me ₃ Si <u>N</u> H <u>6</u>	2(60) ^d	93 ^g
7.	CH ₂ =CH-CH=CH ₂ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂	N H Z	0.3 (21) ^d	90 ^g
8.	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH=CH ₂ CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₂		0.4(60) ^d	90 ^g

^a Cp'₂SmCH(SiMe₃)₂ as precatalyst. ^b Me₂SiCp''₂LuCH(SiMe₃)₂ as precatalyst. ^c Me₂SiCp''₂SmCH(SiMe₃)₂ as precatalyst. ^d Me₂-SiCp''₂NdCH(SiMe₃)₂ as precatalyst. ^e NMR and preparative-scale reactions. ^f Isolated yield. ^g Yield determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy and GC/MS after vacuum transfer of volatile products.

(entries 1–3) alkynes, as well as a functionalized/ polarized alkene (entry 6), a diene (entry 7), and a nonfunctionalized alkene (entry 8). In regard to nonfunctionalized alkynes, the ultimate products are imines, the expected tautomerization products¹⁴ of initially formed enamines (Scheme 1). In regard to comparisons of intermolecular–intramolecular kinetic effects, entries 4 and 5 of Table 1 offer the most realistic comparison to intramolecular analogues (eqs 3 and 4).² It can be seen that under comparable conditions of catalyst, concentration, and temperature, the intramolecular hydroamination process is up to ~1000× more rapid. As might be expected for turnover-limiting -C=C-





insertion (cyclization) into the Ln–N bond, the intramolecular kinetic advantage diminishes with increasing ring size.¹⁵ The greatest intermolecular (and intramolecular) alkyne hydroamination rates are observed for silyl-substituted acetylenes (Table 1, entries 1–3) and likely reflect the stabilizing tendency¹⁶ by silicon substituents of α -carbanionic and β -carbocationic centers in what is a reasonable portrayal of the intermolecular insertive transition state (**A**). Note that this mechanistic proposal based on charge stabilization is in good accord with the observed regiochemistry of intermolecular NHR delivery (Table 1).



In the case of silyl-substituted alkynes, initial imine insertion products are observed by in situ ¹H NMR experiments; however, they undergo subsequent, 1,3-

⁽¹³⁾ In the glovebox, 20.0 mg (33.2 $\mu mol)$ of $Me_2SiCp''_2NdCH-(SiMe_3)^{10b}$ was loaded into a storage tube (25.0 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirbar. Next, C₆H₆ (5.0 mL), 1-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propyne (295 mg, 2630 μ mol), and *n*-butylamine (183 mg, 2500 μ mol) were successively vacuum-transferred onto the precatalyst. The mixture was then freeze-pump-thaw degassed and warmed to room temperature. The resulting solution was stirred with heating at 60 °C for 3 days. Distillation of the C_6H_6 and excess 1-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propyne followed by product vacuum transfer afforded a mixture of N-(1-methyl-2-)(trimethylsilyl)-ethylidene)butylamine and N-(trimethylsilyl)-N-(1-(methylethyl)-1-enyl)butylamine. After the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 72 h, the N-(1-methyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)ethylidene)butylamine underwent complete isomerization to N-(trimethylsilyl)-N-(1-(methylethyl)-1-enyl)butylamine (2). N-(trimethylsilyl)-N-(1-(methylethyl)-1enyl)butylamine, 0.29 g (62% isolated yield), was obtained as a colorless oil. It was >95% pure by ¹H NMR and GC/MS. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 4.18 (s, 2H, CH₂=), 2.98 (t, 2H, J= 7.50 Hz, CH₂N), 1.81 (s, 3H, CH₃C=N), 1.45 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂N), 1.20 (m, 2H, CH₂Me), 0.84 (t, J = 7.20 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂), 0.19 (s, 9H, SiMe₃), ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, J = 7.20 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂O, 0.19 (s, 9H, SiMe₃), ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, 1) (s, ¹H-decoupled C₆D₆): δ 148.9, 92.9, 46.6, 32.8, 23.1, 20.9, 14.4, 2.1. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, ¹H-coupled, C₆D₆): δ 148.9 (s), 92.7 (t, $J_{CH} = 157.0$ Hz), 46.6 (t, $J_{CH} = 132.5$ Hz), 32.8 (t, $J_{CH} = 123.5$ Hz), 23.1 (q, $J_{CH} = 120.0$ Hz), 20.9 (t, $J_{CH} = 121.5$ Hz), 14.5 (q, $J_{CH} = 123.5$ Hz), 2.1 (q, $J_{CH} = 106.6$ Hz). MS (m/e (rel abundance)): M⁺ (11), M⁺ – 1 (2), M⁺ + 1 (2), 170.2 (66), 156.3 (4), 142.1 (48), 128.1 (18), 114.1 (82), 100.1 (6), 73.0 (100), 59.1 (16), 45.0 (17). High-resolution mass spectrum: Calcd for C₁₀H₂₃NSi (M⁺), *m/e* 185.1600; found, *m/e* 185.1602

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sigmatropic silyl shifts (eq 5);¹⁷ these are rapidly



brought to completion at higher temperatures). Regarding inter-intramolecular hydroamination comparisons, the rate of 5-(trimethylsilyl)-4-pentyn-1-amine cyclization (eq 6) is $>1000 \times$ more rapid than the

$$Me_{3}Si \longrightarrow N_{1} > 7600 (21 \ {}^{0}C) \longrightarrow Me_{3}Si \longrightarrow N_{1} > 7600 (21 \ {}^{0}C) \longrightarrow Me_{3}Si \longrightarrow N_{1} (6)$$

analogous intermolecular entries 1-3 (Table 1). In the case of terminal alkynes, previously characterized¹⁸ intermolecular alkyne oligomerization processes are considerably more rapid than alkyne hydroamination and dominate the catalytic chemistry under the conditions of Table 1.

With respect to olefin hydroamination, entry 6 of Table 1 suggests that silyl-substituted alkenes are slightly less reactive ($\sim 2-5 \times$) than silyl-substituted alkynes (entries 1–3). In contrast, unfunctionalized olefins are sluggishly reactive under the present catalytic conditions (entry 8), in contrast to the analogous, but substantially more rapid, intramolecular transformations (eq 7).^{1b} The diene transformation of entry 7



proceeds with complete stereospecificity and reasonably involves protonolysis of an intermediate lanthanide η^3 -crotyl structure (**B**). The formation of such species from diene insertion into Ln–C/H bonds has considerable precedent.^{10a,19}



A detailed kinetic study¹¹ of Me₂SiCp"₂NdCH(SiMe₃)₂mediated entry 2 in Table 1 indicates zero-order behavior in amine over a 15-fold concentration range and firstorder kinetics in both alkyne and catalyst over 10-fold and 20-fold concentration ranges, respectively. This yields the rate law of eq 8, which contrasts with the

$$= k[\text{amine}]^{0}[\text{alkyne}]^{1}[\text{Ln}]^{1}$$
(8)

zero-order substrate kinetics observed for both aminoalkyne² and aminoalkene^{1b} intramolecular hydroamination. In both these cases, turnover-limiting alkyne/ alkene insertion is inferred from these results and other evidence (vide infra). Studies of the rate of intermolecular entry 2 over a 45 °C temperature range yield acceptable Eyring plots and the activation parameters $\Delta H^{\ddagger} = 17.2(1.1)$ kcal/mol and $\Delta S^{\ddagger} = -25.9(4.0)$ eu. Similar analyses for eq 2 (H₂NCH₂CH₂CH₂C=CH cyclization mediated by Cp'₂SmCH(SiMe₃)₂) afford $\Delta H^{\ddagger} =$ 10.7(8) kcal/mol and $\Delta \hat{S}^{\ddagger} = -27.4(6)$ eu,^{2b} while, for eq 7 (*n* = 1), $\Delta H^{\ddagger} = 12.7(1.4)$ kcal/mol and $\Delta S^{\ddagger} = -27.0$ (4.6) eu.^{1b} In both cases, the intramolecular process proceeds with a substantially lower enthalpy of activation; however, the large, negative ΔS^{\ddagger} values are interestingly comparable in all three cases, arguing that the intramolecular processes do not enjoy a major overall activation entropic advantage and that the transition states are all highly organized/-constrained.

Further mechanistic evidence for steric constraints in the transition state for intermolecular hydroamination is seen in metal and ancillary ligand effects on the rate of entry 1, Table 1. A pattern of falling N_t with constricting metal ion coordination sphere is observed with (N_t (60 °C) values in parentheses) Me₂SiCp^{''}₂Nd- $(14 h^{-1}) > Me_2SiCp''_2Sm - (4 h^{-1}) > Me_2SiCp''_2Lu (\leq 0.1 h^{-1}) > Cp'_2Sm - (< 0.01 h^{-1})$ and is typical of organolanthanide-catalyzed processes in which olefin insertion into a Ln-C or Ln-N bond is turnoverlimiting.^{1,10,20} Interestingly, the only significant exception to this pattern that we are aware of is the intramolecular hydroamination/cyclization of aminoalkynes.² Further kinetic support for significant steric impediments in the transition state of the present intermolecular process is found in R"NH₂ substituent effects where N_t (entries 1–3) declines in the order R" = n-Pr $\geq n$ -Bu $\geq i$ -Bu.

The present results contrast with those for Cp'_2An mediated intermolecular hydroamination processes (An = Th, U).⁹ Here, terminal alkynes undergo hydroamination whereas internal alkynes do not, silyl substituent effects are minor, and olefins are unreactive. The 5f work also reveals pronounced metal-dependent effects on regiochemistry not seen here for the lanthanides, and kinetics which are zero-order in [alkyne] and inverse order in [amine], implicating a metal imido (An=NR) intermediate. Together, these results illustrate a rich and diverse intermolecular hydroamination chemistry for 4f and 5f complexes and the most divergent 4f vs 5f catalytic pathways yet identified.

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Supporting Information Available: Text giving synthetic and characterization information for reactants and products and representative kinetic plots (15 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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