METAL CATALYZED CROSS-COUPLING REACTIONS OF CARBANIONS α TO SILAFUNCTIONAL GROUPS. New α -Hydroxyalkyl anion equivalents¹

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Summary: Carbanions a to (alkoxy)silyl or (amino)silyl groups act as nucleophilic a-hydroxyalkylating agents for organic halides and epoxides via the metal catalyzed coupling reaction and the subsequent oxidative cleavage of the carbon-silicon bond.

In the previous paper,¹ we have described the formation of carbanions a to (alkoxy)silyl or (amino)silyl groups. This paper is concerned with the metal catalyzed coupling reactions of such a species² with organic halides and epoxides and the subsequent oxidative cleavage of the carbon-silicon bond to form the corresponding alcohols. The overall transformation is illustrated in Scheme 1, where a silafunctional vinylsilane acts as a new two-carbon building block and in turn the a-silyl carbonion as an a-hydroxyalkyl anion equivalent. Throughout this paper, *si* represents a functional silyl group. The a-silyl carbonions 1-8 employed in this study are listed below.



In a series of the alkoxysilyl derivatives 1-4 the hydrolysis or coupling products were isolated³ and then subjected to the MCPBA-oxidation.⁴ Several representative results are given in eqs. (1)-(7). Yields of the first step are based on the vinylsilane.



^a MCPBA (2-2.2 eq), KF (2.2 eq), DMF, rt, 3-5 h. ^b CuI (10 mol%), ⁵ THF, rt, 1.5-7 h. ^c NiCl₂(dppp) (1 mol%), ⁶ 0°C, 1.5 h. ^d PdCl₂(dppf) (1 mol%), ⁷ rt, 4 h. ^e MCPBA (8 eq), KF (2.2 eq), DMF, 60°C, 53 h.

With the aminosilyl carbanions 5-8, the lithium reagents were converted to their magnesium analogs by treatment with $MgBr_2$ prior to the coupling reactions. The coupling products were not isolated, but decomposed by acid hydrolysis to the corresponding siloxanes which were oxidized by 90% H_2O_2 or MCPBA,⁸ as shown by eq.8 and by several data listed in the accompanying table. Overall isolated yields based on the vinylsilanes are given.

Epoxides also reacted with organolithium reagent 5 in the presence of CuI^9 to form the corresponding 1,3-diols after work-ups similar to those given in eq.8 (eqs. 9 and 10). In the reaction of isoprene monoepoxide,^{9b} the transmetallated magnesium reagent, 5(+MgBr₂), afforded a 1,5-diol arising from an S_N' type reaction, under otherwise the same conditions (eq.11).





 a (1) MgBr_, ether. (2) R'X (2 eq), CuI (10 mol%), THF, rt, 3 h.

b (1) 6N HCl. (2) Ether extraction, drying (Na₂SO₄), and evaporation.

 c 90% $\rm{H_{2}O_{2}}$ (10 eq), \rm{KHF}_{2} (3 eq), DMF, 60°C, 16–18 h.

^d Yields in parentheses were obtained with the MCPBA oxidation (cf., footnote a of eq. 1).



Several general comments should be made. (1) The α -monodeuterio primary alcohol obtained in eq. 1 is unique in that the deuterium arises from deuterium oxide, in contrast to the conventional standard method via reduction of aldehydes by deuteride reagents. (2) All the α -silyl carbanions examined readily underwent the copper catalyzed coupling reaction with allylic halides and methyl iodide: coupling with *n*-butyl iodide being rather sluggish (cf., data in eq. 8). (3) In the nickel or palladium catalyzed coupling reactions with alkenyl halides (e.g., eqs. 3 and 4), concomitant β -hydride elimination of the carbanions occurred to give the corresponding vinylsilane RCH=CH-si in substantial amounts. This side reaction is responsible for the somewhat low yields of the coupling products. The present development has opened up a new method for nucleophilic α -hydroxyalkylation^{11,12} of organic halides and epoxides. Refinement of the present procedure and further applications of α -silyl carbanions are now in progress.¹³

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