REFORMATSKY TYPE REACTION BY MEANS OF Bu3SnAlEt2 or Bu3PbAlEt2

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Abstract: Treatment of α -halo carbonyl compounds with title Sn-Al or Pb-Al reagents provides enolates which react with aldehydes or ketones to give β -hydroxy carbonyl compounds effectively.

The reaction of terminal acetylenes with the organometallic compounds prepared from Bu_3SnLi and MeMgI or $\pounds t_2AlCl$ affords vinylstannanes under good control of the regio- and stereoselectivity in the presence of various transition-metal catalysts.¹ Here we wish to report another application of the $Bu_3SnAlEt_2$ reagent to the regiospecific aldol synthesis of α -bromo carbonyl derivatives and aldehydes or ketones.²,³ This new method is successfully extended to the Reformatsky reaction giving β -hydroxy esters under mild conditions.⁴,⁵



A hexane solution of diethylaluminium chloride (1.0 M, 2.0 m1, 2.0 mmol) was added to a solution of Bu_3SnLi^6 prepared from butyllithium (1.6 M, 3.8 ml, 6.0 mmol) and $SnCl_2$ (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol) in THF (3 ml) at 0°C. After 10 min, a mixture of ethyl bromoacetate (0.17 g, 1.0 mmol) and cyclohexanone (0.10 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (3 ml) was added and the whole was stirred for 30 min. Aqueous workup (1N-HCl) and purification by column chromatography gave S-hydroxy ester (1)⁷ (0.16 g) in 87% yield.

The reaction of methyl γ -bromocrotonate and benzaldehyde with $bu_3SnAlEt_2$ afforded only the α -adduct (entry 10, Table 1). The same regioselectivity was observed in the reaction by means of Zn/Et_2AlCl system^{3a} and diethylaluminium 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidide.^{3h} The strong

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entry	α-Bromo Carbonyl Compound	Carbonyl Compound	Reagent ^b	Aldol Produc Yield(%) (eryth	t ro:threo)
1	Ph Br	PhCHO	A B C	Phy Ph OH	92 86 78
2		Ph H	А	Ph Ph	70 [°]
3			A	Ph OH	76
4	\sim	~~~~c	HO A	Ph II O OH	76
5	Br	PhCHO	A B	Ph	69(25:75) 77(28:72)
6	Br	PhCHO	A		81 ?h
7	_	\sim	H A		54
8	, Ů	PhCHO	А		61(50:50)
9	$EtO Br \\ O Br$	PhCHO	А	EtO Ph O OH	75 [°]
10	MeO Br	PhCHO	А	MeO Ph O OH	74(54 : 46)
11		Ů	A C	Me O OH	90 74 [°]

Table 1. Synthesis of $\beta\text{-hydroxy}$ carbonyl compounds in the presence of $\text{Bu}_3\text{SnAlEt}_2^a$

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Foot note of Table 1

    a) Two mmol of reagent, one mmol of α-halo carbonyl compound, and one
mmol of carbonyl compound were employed.
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- b) Reagent A: Bu₃SnAlEt₂, Reagent B: Bu₃PbAlEt₂; Reagent C: Ph₃PbAlEt₂.
 c) A catalytic amount (5 mol%) of Pd(PPh₃)₄ was added.

affinity of tin to bromine is well documented and used for the oxidation of alcohols.8

The regioselectivity of the reaction was demonstrated by the treatment of 2-bromo-2-methylcyclohexanone⁹ or 2-bromo-6-methylcyclohexanone¹⁰ with Bu₃SnAlEt₂ in the presence of PhCHO to give the corresponding β -hydroxy ketone without any contamination of the regioisomer.



i: PhCHO, Bu₃SnAlEt₂, O°C, 30 min.

Notably, the aldol reaction proceeds much more easily and efficiently in the presence of a catalytic amount of $Pd(PPh_3)_A$. For example, the reaction of α -bromoacetophenone with cinnamaldehyde gave β -hydroxy ketone in 70% yield as compared to 54% yield in the absence of $Pd(PPh_3)_4$.

The reaction of α -bromoacetophenone and benzaldehyde with Me₂PhSiAlEt₂ or $Ph_3GeAlEt_2$ instead of $Bu_3SnAlEt_2$ gave no desired β -hydroxy carbonyl compound. On the other hand, $R_3PbAlEt_2$ (R = Bu, Ph) proved to be as effective as Bu₃SnAlEt₂. A typical experimental procedure is as follows. Diethylaluminium chloride (1.0 M, 2.0 ml, 2.0 mmol) was added to a solution of Ph₃PbLi¹¹ prepared from phenyllithium (6.0 mmol) and PbCl₂ (0.56 g, 2.0 mmol) in THF at 0°C. Pd(PPh3)4 (5 mol%) was added and the resulting mixture was cooled to -20°C. A solution of α -bromoacetophenone (0.32 g, 1.6 mmol) and cinnamaldehyde (0.16 g, 1.2 mmol) in THF (3 ml) was added slowly over 15 min at -20°C. The reaction mixture was poured into 1N-HCl. Usual workup and purification by silica gel column chromatography gave 1,5-diphenyl-3hydroxy-4-penten-l-one⁷ (0.25 g) in 84% yield. Additional examples are also summarized in Table 1.12

references and Notes

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