

**NEW REAGENTS FOR EXHAUSTIVE ALKOXYCARBONYLATION OF AMIDES AND URETHANS.  
DI-1-ADAMANTYL DI- AND TRICARBONATE**

Andreas Könnecke,<sup>1</sup> Leif Grehn, and Ulf Ragnarsson<sup>\*</sup>

Department of Biochemistry, University of Uppsala, Biomedical Center,  
P.O. Box 576, S-751 23 Uppsala, Sweden

**Summary:** Di-1-adamantyl, di- and tricarboxylate, and di-*t*-butyl tricarboxylate were found to be useful reagents for the DMAP-catalyzed alkoxy-carbonylation of amides and urethans.

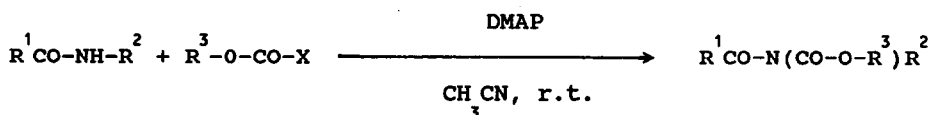
Previously it was demonstrated that a wide range of amides, urethans and similar compounds<sup>2</sup> can be converted to the corresponding *t*-butoxy-carbonyl (Boc) derivatives under rather mild conditions using Boc O<sup>3</sup> as reagent and 4-dimethylaminopyridine<sup>4</sup> (DMAP) as catalyst. Many of the new derivatives readily undergo selective cleavage with nucleophiles.<sup>2a,5</sup> As furthermore recently exhaustive *t*-butoxycarbonylation has turned out to be preparatively useful,<sup>6</sup> we have now investigated some alternatives to Boc O as reagent and, particularly, attempted to extend the scope of this reaction to other protecting groups.

Our earlier attempts to extend this methodology to other dicarbonates have been unsuccessful. Dimethyl, dibenzyl and diallyl dicarbonate all rapidly decompose in the presence of DMAP in acetonitrile at room temperature.<sup>2c,7</sup> In di-1-adamantyl dicarbonate<sup>8</sup> (Adoc O), however, we have now found an additional species that forms a quite stable intermediate with DMAP in acetonitrile and studied this by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.<sup>9</sup> The Adoc-DMAP adduct is at least as stable as Boc-DMAP, but unexpectedly somewhat more reactive. For example, using Boc-Gly-OBzl as substrate, it reacts about twice as fast. A few amides, anilides and amino acid derivatives were reacted on a preparative scale with Adoc O and DMAP in acetonitrile to give the corresponding Adoc-substituted<sup>2</sup> compounds in yields over 90% (see Scheme).

Using di-1-adamantyl tricarboxylate<sup>8</sup> (Adoc CO<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>3</sup>), the immediate precursor of Adoc O, the same Adoc-derivatives have been obtained in similar yields. <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments indicated that Adoc CO<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> and Adoc O<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> evidently gave the same Adoc-DMAP adduct [ $\delta$  8.49 and 6.90 (2d, 4H, <sup>2</sup>arom.H), 3.30 (s, 6H, Me N)]. 1-Adoc-pyrrole was obtained similarly from Adoc CO<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>3</sup>.

The same was found to hold for Boc CO<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>3</sup>. In this case, in the presence of DMAP a fast conversion into Boc O<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments.<sup>11</sup> A preparative experiment<sup>2</sup> also demonstrated that Boc CO<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>3</sup> could replace Boc O<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> in the established *t*-butoxycarbonylation of pyrrole, thus affording the corresponding 1-Boc-derivative in a similar yield (79%).<sup>12</sup>

### S C H E M E <sup>13</sup>



(1)	(2)	(3)	X
R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	
a; Me	Ph	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
b; 1-adamantyloxy	Ph	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
c; Bzl-O	Me	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
d; Bzl-O	CH(Me)COOEt	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
e; Bzl-O	CH(CHMe) <sup>2</sup> COOEt	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
f; <i>t</i> -butoxy	CH <sup>2</sup> COOBzl	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
g; Me	CH <sup>2</sup> COOBzl	1-adamantyl	O-CO-O-R <sup>3</sup>
h; Me	CH <sup>2</sup> COOBzl	1-adamantyl	O-(CO-O) <sup>2</sup> -R <sup>3</sup>
i; Me	Ph <sup>2</sup>	<i>t</i> -butyl	F
j; Me	Ph	1-adamantyl	F

Kemp and Curran<sup>14</sup> in a recent paper rationalized the appearance of an unexpected product in terms of a Boc-OCO-DMAP adduct. In our experiments, however, we could not detect any evidence for this species.

Furthermore, the utility of alkoxycarbonylfluorides, represented by BocF<sup>15</sup> and AdocF<sup>16</sup> (which is commercially available), was examined. In

both cases the DMAP-mediated reaction with acetanilide in acetonitrile gave only 30% yields of the desired products (3a, 3i). In the case of AdocF, considerable amounts of the carbonate<sup>17</sup> was also isolated along with the product. <sup>1</sup>H NMR studies revealed a very slow formation of the DMAP adducts from the fluorides.

Further completing experiments along these lines with particular attention to new amino acid derivatives are in progress.

**Acknowledgements:** Financial support from the Swedish Natural Science Research Council and the National Swedish Board for Technical Development as well as a scholarship (to A.K.) from the Swedish Institute are gratefully acknowledged.

#### References and Notes

- 1 Guest investigator from Karl-Marx-University, Department of Biosciences, DDR-7010 Leipzig, German Democratic Republic.
- 2 (a) D.L. Flynn, R.E. Zelle, and P.A. Grieco, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1983, **48**, 2424; (b) L. Grehn and U. Ragnarsson, *Angew. Chem.*, 1985, **97**, 519; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1985, **24**, 510; (c) L. Grehn, K. Gunnarsson, and U. Ragnarsson, *Acta Chem. Scand., Ser. B*, 1986, **40**, 745.
- 3 (a) J.H. Howe and L.R. Morris, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1962, **27**, 1901; (b) C.S. Dean, D.S. Tarbell, and A.W. Friederang, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1970, **35**, 3393; (c) B.M. Pope, Y. Yamamoto, and D.S. Tarbell, *Org. Synth.*, 1988, *Coll. Vol.* **6**, 418.
- 4 (a) L.M. Litvinenko and A.I. Kirichenko, *Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim.*, 1967, **176**, 97; (b) G. Höfle, W. Steglich, and H. Vorbrüggen, *Angew. Chem.*, 1978, **90**, 602; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1978, **17**, 569; (c) E.F.V. Scriven, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 1983, **12**, 129.
- 5 (a) L. Grehn, K. Gunnarsson, and U. Ragnarsson, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1985, 1317; (b) L. Grehn, K. Gunnarsson, and U. Ragnarsson, *Acta Chem. Scand., Ser. B*, 1987, **41**, 18.
- 6 (a) L. Grehn and U. Ragnarsson, *Synthesis*, 1987, 275; (b) M.L.S. Almeida, L. Grehn, and U. Ragnarsson, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1987, 1250; (c) M.L.S. Almeida, L. Grehn, and U. Ragnarsson, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I*, 1988, 1905; (d) K. Gunnarsson, L. Grehn, and U. Ragnarsson, *Angew. Chem.*, 1988, **100**, 411, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1988, **27**, 400; (e) M.L.S. Almeida, L. Grehn, and U. Ragnarsson, *Acta Chem. Scand.*, 1989, **44**, 990.
- 7 L. Grehn, M.L.S. Almeida and U. Ragnarsson, *Synthesis*, 1988, 992.
- 8 B.M. Pope, S.-J. Sheu, R.L. Stanley, D.S. Tarbell, and Y. Yamamoto, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1978, **43**, 2410.
- 9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR in CD<sub>3</sub>CN: DMAP δ 8.12 and 6.54 (2d,4H,pyridine), 2.95 (s,6H, Me<sub>3</sub>N); Adoc-DMAP δ 8.49 and 6.90 (2d,4H,pyridine), 3.30 (s,6H,Me<sub>3</sub>N).
- 10 1-(1-Adamantylloxycarbonyl)-pyrrole: M.p. 66 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 7.23 (t, J=2.4, 2H), 6.20 (t, J=2.4, 2H), 2.23, 1.70 (m, 15H, adamantyl); <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 148.8 (CO), 119.9 (pyrrole C2), 111.7 (pyrrole C3), 83.4, 41.3, 36.0, 30.9 (adamantyl), IR (KBr) 1741 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO).
- 11 When a 0.1 M solution of Boc<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>CN [δ(Bu<sup>t</sup>)=1.53] was treated with 0.1 equiv. of DMAP at room temperature, no trace remained after 10 min. Instead Boc<sub>2</sub>O [δ(Bu<sup>t</sup>)=1.49] appeared as the main product.
- 12 L. Grehn and U. Ragnarsson, *Angew. Chem.*, 1984, **96**, 291; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1984, **23**, 296.
- 13 Representative analytical data on new products (NMR spectra in CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS):  
Compound (3a)=(3j), Ac(Adoc)NPh: M.p. 92-92.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 7.33 (s,

- 5H, Ph), 2.58 (s, 3H, Me), 2.17, 2.00, 1.61 (m, 15H, adamantyl);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  172.9 (CO Me), 152.2 (CO), 138.8, 128.8, 128.1, 127.6 (Ph), 83.0, 41.0, 35.9, 30.7 (adamantyl), 26.5 (Me); IR (KBr) 1740, 1702  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO).
- Compound (3b), Adoc.NPh: M.p. 181  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.42-7.07 (br. m, 5H, Ph), 2.07, 1.62 (m, 30H, adamantyl);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  151.4 (CO), 139.5, 128.5, 127.9, 127.2 (Ph), 82.5, 41.1, 36.1, 30.8 (adamantyl); IR (KBr) 1741, 1723  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO).
- Compound (3c), Z(Adoc)NMe: oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.36 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.21 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.17 (s, 3H, Me), 2.12, 1.65 (m, 15H, adamantyl);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  154.0 (Bz<sub>2</sub>OCO), 151.8 (CO Adoc), 135.6, 128.5, 128.2 (Ph), 82.7, 41.2, 36.1, 30.9 (adamantyl), 68.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 33.3 (Me); IR (film) 1793, 1752, 1724, 1697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .
- Compound (3d), Z(Adoc)-L-Ala-OEt: oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.36 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.24 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.00 (q, J=7, 1H, CH), 4.12 (q, J=7, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Me), 2.10, 1.63 (m, 15H, adamantyl), 1.51 (d, J=7, 3H, Me), 1.21 (t, J=7, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  170.7 (COEt), 153.6 (CO), 150.5 (CO), 135.3, 128.5, 128.3 (Ph), 83.6, 41.1, 36.1, 30.9 (adamantyl), 68.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 61.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>Me), 54.4 (CH), 15.6 (Me), 14.1 (Me); IR (film) 1798, 1746, 1700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO).
- Compound (3e), Z(Adoc)-L-Val-OEt: oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.36 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.25 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.55 (d, 1H, CHN), 4.10 (q, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Me), 2.49 (m, 1H, CHMe), 2.10, 1.64 (m, 15H, adamantyl), 1.20 (t, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.13 (d, 3H, Me), 0.85 (d, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  170.1 (COEt), 154.2 (Bz<sub>2</sub>OCO), 150.9 (Adoc-CO), 135.4, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1 (Ph), 83.4, 41.1, 36.0, 30.9 (adamantyl), 68.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>OCO), 63.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>Me), 60.9 (CHN), 28.5 (CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (Me), 18.8 (Me), 14.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (film) 1796, 1747, 1704  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO).
- Compound (3f), Boc(Adoc)Gly-OBzl: oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.34 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.18 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.37 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 2.10, 1.64 (m, 15H, adamantyl), 1.47 (s, 9H, Me<sub>3</sub>);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  169.1 (COOBzl), 151.9 (CO), 151.2 (CO), 135.5, 128.5, 128.3 (Ph), 83.1, 41.1, 36.0, 30.9 (adamantyl), 82.9 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 66.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 47.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 28.0 (Me<sub>3</sub>); IR (film) 1797, 1758, 1735, 1696  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO).
- Compound (3g)=(3h), Ac(Adoc)Gly-OBzl: M.p. 44-44.5  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.35 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.17 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.49 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 2.54 (s, 3H, Me), 2.15, 2.04, 1.63 (m, 15H, adamantyl);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  172.7 (CO Me), 168.8 (COOBzl), 151.6 (CO Adoc), 135.5, 128.5 (Ph), 83.8, 41.0, 35.9, 30.9 (adamantyl), 66.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 45.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 26.4 (Me); IR (KBr) 1753, 1741, 1704,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO).
- Compound (3i), Ac(Boc)NPh<sup>5</sup>;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) 171.9 (COCH<sub>3</sub>), 152.1 (CO Boc), 138.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.3 (Ph), 82.5 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 27.3 (Me<sub>3</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>CO).
- 14 D.S. Kemp and T.P. Curran, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1988, 53, 5729.
- 15 (a) E. Schnabel, H. Herzog, P. Hoffmann, E. Klauke, and I. Ugi, *Angew. Chem.*, 1968, 80, 396; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1968, 7, 380; *Liebigs Ann. Chem.* 1968, 716, 175; (b) L. Wackerle and I. Ugi, *Synthesis*, 1975, 598.
- 16 L. Moroder, L. Wackerle, and E. Wunsch, *Hoppe-Seyler's Z. Physiol. Chem.*, 1976, 357, 1647.
- 17 M.p. 320-330  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; no m.p. reported in Ref. 8.

(Received in Germany 20 February 1990)