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Highly Efficient Synthesis of Alka-1,3-dien-2-yltitanium Compounds from Alka-2,3-dienyl Carbonates. A New, Practical Synthesis of 1,3-Dienes and 2-Iodo-1,3-dienes

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Abstract: Treatment of carbonates of alka-2,3-dien-1-ols 2 with $(\eta^2$ -propene)Ti(O-i-Pr)2 (1) resulted in oxidative addition to afford 1,3-dien-2-yltitanium compounds 3, which react readily with electrophiles such as H^+ . I2 and aldehydes. The reaction with H^+ and I2 proceeds highly regioselectively, thus providing an efficient and practical method for synthesis of 1,3-dienes and 2-iodo-1,3-dienes. Copyright © 1996 Elsevier Science Ltd

Recently we have found that the reaction of Ti(O-i-Pr)4 with 2 equiv of i-PrMgX (X = Cl or Br) provides (η^2 -propene)Ti(O-i-Pr)2 (1) in an essentially quantitative yield and this compound acts as a versatile titanium(II) equivalent. In the course of our studies to develop a synthetic methodology based on 1, we have revealed that the reaction with allyl or propargyl compounds such as halides, carbonates and acetates proceeds via the replacement of the propene coordinated in 1 by the unsaturated carbon-carbon bond of the substrate and the successive β -elimination reaction to provide allylic 1a or allenylic titanium compounds, 1b respectively, in excellent yields. These results suggested to us that α -allenyl carbonates (alka-2,3-dienyl carbonates) 2 might afford the titanium compounds (alka-1,3-dien-2-yltitanium compounds) 3 by the reaction with 1 as shown in Scheme 1. Since a variety of 2 can be readily prepared by a conventional method, 2 it was expected that the reaction would provide an efficient synthetic methodology when the resulting 3 reacts with electrophiles with high regioselectivity.

Table 1. Synthesis of Alka-1,3-dien-2-yltitanium Compounds **3** from Alka-2,3-dienyl Carbonates **2** by Treatment with Ti(O-*i*-Pr)₄ / *i*-PrMgX and Their Reaction with Electrophiles

electrophile

^a Reaction procedure: see, footnote 7. ^b Isolated yield unless otherwise indicated. ^c Ratio of 4 and 5 was determined by 300MHz ¹H NMR and/or GC analysis. In the case of iodolysis and hydrolysis the corresponding 5 was not detected. ^d Reaction has not been carried out. ^e GC yields. ^f Olefin geometry was confirmed by NOE-difference experiments. Ratio of *E* and *Z* was determined by 300 MHz ¹H NMR and/or GC analysis. ^g Stereochemistry of major diastereomer was assigned to be *anti* based on ¹H NMR chemical sifts in analogy with 2-alkyl-1-phenyl-3-buten-1-ol. ^{1a} Ratio of diastereomers was determined by 300 MHz ¹H NMR analysis. ^j Treatment with D₂O instead of aqueous 1N HCl gave the product containing >98% D which was confirmed by ¹H NMR analysis. ^j i-PrMgCl was used instead of i-PrMgBr. ^k Olefin geometry was assigned based on ¹H-coupling constants.

To a solution of 2 and Ti(O-i-Pr)4 in ether was added 2 equiv of i-PrMgX (X = Br or Cl) at -78 °C. After stirring for 1.5 h at -50 °C ~ -40 °C, the reaction mixture was treated with electrophiles such as H⁺, I₂ or an aldehyde. As can be seen from Table 1 which summarizes the results of the reaction, the expected oxidative addition reaction of 2 to 1 proceeded readily to provide titanium compound 3, and which, in turn, reacted with the electrophiles in excellent yields.³ The regiochemistry of the reaction was dependent on the electrophiles applied: the reaction with aldehydes provided two regioisomers, the ratio of which was dependent on the nature of 2 as well as the aldehydes. On the other hand, to our delight, the reaction with H⁺ and I₂ resulted in nearly exclusive production (at least >95 : 5 by 1 H NMR and/or GC) of one regioisomer, *i.e.*, the corresponding conjugated diene derivatives.⁴

The stereochemistry of the reaction products shown in Table 1 deserves several comments. Firstly, the internal olefin moiety of the conjugated diene products derived from terminal allene derivatives has (E)-geometry (entries 3 and 4). This result strongly indicated that the internal olefin moiety present in the titanium compound 3 has (E)-geometry (Scheme 2). However, the geometry of the internal olefin part of the products derived from the carbonates having an internal allenyl moiety was a mixture, suggesting the presence of both (E)- and (Z)-3 (entry 5). Secondly, the diastereochemistry of the homoallenyl alcohols shown in entry 3 is highly controlled to be anti-configuration. This stereochemical outcome can be explained by assuming that the reaction of 3 with an aldehyde proceeds via a 6-membered chair-like transition state as shown in Scheme 2.5

R'
$$OCO_2$$
Et OCO_2 Et O

Scheme 2

The present one-pot procedure for synthesizing stereo-defined 1,3-diene compounds starting from readily preparable 2 is very useful and practical, since the reaction uses nontoxic, commercially available inexpensive starting materials [Ti(O-i-Pr)4 and 2i-PrMgX], and the reaction procedure is operationally simple. Especially noteworthy is the easy synthesis of a variety of 2-iodo-1,3-dienes, because few efficient and general methods for preparing of these compounds are available.⁶

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- The compounds 2 except that shown in entry 2 in Table 1 were prepared according to the procedure reported in the literature ("Synthesis of Acetylenes, Allenes and Cumulenes," Brandsma, L.; Verkruijsse, H. D.; Elsevier: New York, 1981.) as shown below:

The compound shown in entry 2 was synthesized by the procedure developed by us 1b as shown below:

- Preparation of 2-metallo-1,3-diene compounds and their reactions with electrophiles, see: Mg: (a) Kondo, K.; Dobashi, S.; Matsumoto, M. Chem. Lett. 1976, 1077-1080. (b) Nunomoto, S.; Yamashita, Y. J. Org. Chem. 1979, 44, 4788-4791. (c) Shea, K. J.; Pham, P. Q. Tetrahedron Lett. 1983, 24, 1003-1006 and ref. 3d. Zn, Al: (d) Pornet, J.; Randrianoelina, B.; Miginiac, L. J. Organomet. Chem. 1979, 174, 15-26 and ref. 3b. Li: (e) Wada, E.; Kanemasa, S.; Fujiwara, I.; Tsuge, O. Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. 1985, 58, 1942-1945. (f) Brown, P. A.; Jenkins, P. R.; J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1, 1986, 1129-1131. (g) Bloch, R.; Chaptal-Gradoz, N. J. Org. Chem. 1994, 59, 4162-4169. Syntheses of α-allenyl boron compounds have been reported: (h) Soumdararajan, R.; Li, G.; Brown, H. C. Tetrahedron Lett. 1995, 36, 2441-2444. (i) Zheng, B.; Srebnik, M. J. Org. Chem. 1995, 60, 486-487.
- 4. The formation of the regioisomer 4 in the reaction with aldehydes can also be explained by assuming the presence of 2,3-dien-1-yltitanium compounds at equilibrium through metallotropic rearrangement from 3 and their reaction *via* a 6-membered transition state.
- 5. The compounds 3 prepared here did not react with ketones such as acetophenone and 2-nonanone presumably due to steric reasons.
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- 7. General procedure: to a solution of 2 (1.0 mmol) and Ti(O-i-Pr)4 (1.3 mmol) in ether (5 mL) was added dropwise i-PrMgBr or i-PrMgCl (2.6 mmol, 0.9-1.8 M, in ether) at -78 °C and the resulting mixture was allowed to warm up to -50 °C over 0.5 h and then stirred for 1.5 h at -50 °C ~ -40 °C to afford a solution of the titanium compound 3. To this was added dropwise aldehyde (1.3 mmol), a solution of I2 (1.3 mmol) in ether (4 mL), aqueous 1N HCl (2 mL) or D2O (0.5 mL) at -40 °C, and then the mixture was warmed up to ambient temperature over 0.5 ~ 1 h. After addition of 1N HCl (3 mL), an usual extractive work-up afforded the crude mixture which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel. In the case of iodolysis, before chromatography, the crude residue was treated with THF (5 mL) and ~30% aqueous Me2NH (1 mL) at room temperature for 2 ~ 6 h to remove a by-product, 1,4-diiodo-2,3-dimethylbutane, which was produced by iodolysis of a titanacyclopentane compound derived from 1 and propene generated in situ.