



Triazenes as Robust and Simple Linkers for Amines in Solid-phase Organic Synthesis¹

Stefan Bräse,* Johannes Köbberling, Dieter Enders, Ryszard Lazny,† Mingfei Wang

Institut für Organische Chemie der Technischen Hochschule, Professor-Pirlet-Straße 1, D-52074 Aachen, Germany

Siegfried Brandtner

DDTeC GmbH, D-52222 Stolberg, Germany

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Abstract

A new linker strategy for the attachment of aliphatic amines has been developed. Starting from Merrifield resin, an immobilized diazonium salt was prepared in two steps. Reaction of various amines gave rise to triazenes, which in turn were cleaved off upon treatment with mild acids. The triazenes have been proven to be base stable and were used in various types of transformations. The overall process is high-yielding and efficient. © 1999 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

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Over the last couple of years solid-phase organic synthesis (SPOS) has become one of the major tools in combinatorial chemistry, since it allows the rapid assembly of small molecule libraries [2–8]. The latter have been extensively used for the high-throughput-screening [9,10]. The advantage of the SPOS relies on the ease of purification processes during the synthesis and its preference for automated handling.

For the application of processes used in SPOS miscellaneous linker types for amines have been developed [11–34], which resist various reaction conditions. We have already demonstrated the use of triazenes as linker moieties in SPOS to attach arenes in a traceless manner [35] and the use of triazenes as protecting groups for sensitive amines [36]. Herein the approach for a reversed strategy to link amines is presented.

^{*} Telefax: Int. + (49) (0) 241/8888127; E-mail: Braese@oc.RWTH-Aachen.de

[†] New address: Institute of Chemistry, University of Białystok, Al. Pilsudskiego 11/4, 15-443 Białystok, Poland

The strategy is described as follows. Starting from an immobilized diazonium salt A on a resin, reaction with amines B results in the formation of triazenes C. Chemical modification of the resin bound amine yields resin D. Cleavage of the N-N single bond, affected by electrophiles, should give rise to the regeneration of the diazonium resin A and modified amine E (Scheme 1).

Scheme 1. Strategy for a triazene linker.

To prove this hypothesis, Merrifield resin (1) (chloromethylated polystyrene, 1% cross-linked (divinylbenzene), 0.72-1.2 mmol/g) was treated with deprotonated m-hydroxyaniline [37] (NaH in DMF) to give the resin 2 in high yield [38]. Treatment of 2 with tBuONO in the presence of trifluoroborane-etherate in THF at $-10 \,^{\circ}$ C resulted in the formation of the resin salt 3. The wet product is reasonable stable and was treated, after being washed, with various amines 4 (Table 1) in dichloromethane at $-10 \,^{\circ}$ C to room temperature to give the triazenes 5. The aniline and triazene resins 2 and 5, are stable for weeks at room temperature (Scheme 2). Piperazines attached to the resin were modified by acylation in presence of triethylamine or converted to the corresponding formamide using methyl formate.

NaO
$$NH_2$$
 NH_2 $NH_$

Scheme 2. Synthesis and use of the triazene linker. a) DMF, 60 °C, 48 h. b) tBuONO, Et₂O•BF₃, -10 °C, THF, 2 h. c) Amine, NEt₃ (see Table 1).

Cleavage was achieved by treatment with 10% trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane (Table 1) to give the desired products 6 in excellent overall yield and purity (in general over 90%). The resin can be regenerated, if the cleavage is conducted with tetrafluoroboronic acid.

Amine 4	Amine 6	Conditions		
*_\X	N OFFA	Α		C
H-N_N-H	H-NN-H • 2 TFA	Α		C
н-ии-н	H-N_N-PNBz •TFA	Α	D	C
H-N_N-H	Ac-N_N-PNBz	Α	D	E
H-N_N-H	Ac-NN-CHO	Α	F	Е
H-N +HCI, H2O	H-N • TFA	В		C
H-N •HCI, H ₂ O	Ac-N O	В		E
N CO₂Me	N CO₂Me •TFA	Α		С
N CO₂Me	Bn N Bn	Α	G	Н

Table 1. Attachment, modification and cleavage of amines prepared.

A: 1. resin 2, tBuONO, $Et_2O \bullet BF_3$, THF, $-10 \, ^\circ C$; 2. 4, 1h \rightarrow RT. B: 1. resin 2, tBuONO, $Et_2O \bullet BF_3$, THF, $-10 \, ^\circ C$; 2. TEA, 4, 1h \rightarrow room temp.. C: 10% TFA in CH_2Cl_2 , 5 min, room temp. D: PNBzCl, NEt₃, THF, room temp. 24 h. E: AcCl, THF, room temp., 12 h F: HCO_2Me , room temp. 2 d. G: 1. LiOH, H_2O_2 , 0 $^\circ C$; 2. N-BnGlyOMe, BOP-Cl. H: 50% TFA in CH_2Cl_2 , room temp., 10 h. PNBz = para-nitrobenzoyl.

Furthermore, cleavage with acetyl chloride with exclusion of triethylamine gave rise to the formation of N, N-dialkylacetamides 6 ($R^3 = COMe$) (Table 1).

Under these conditions even sensitive amines, such as 4-piperidone, can be successfully attached to solid support. Preliminary results indicate that the use of this linker system can be extended towards immobilizing primary amines, too. These can be acylated yielding a backbone amide linker (BAL) system [39].

In conclusion, a new linker for aliphatic amines on solid support has been developed on a triazene basis. The synthesis of the resin has been achieved in two steps starting from Merrifield resin. Since various kinds of chemical transformations have been shown to be compatible with the triazene linkage [35,36], this new triazene solid-phase handle can be used in many applications.

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