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Pb(OAc)₄ mediated hetero-domino transformations: can any unsaturated 1,2-diol be regarded as a substrate?

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Abstract—We report the oxidative cleavage of unsaturated diols 6 and 7 derived from monocyclic precursors, used as substrates to determine the limits of the olefin as a source of diversity. \bigcirc 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

One-pot multi-stage transformations are among the most useful synthetic methods available for generating diversity in a single synthetic operation.¹ The unsaturated bicyclic diol system 1 has proven to be a versatile template for the domino transformations during lead tetraacetate mediated oxidative cleavage in the synthesis of taxoid C-ring precursors 2, 3 $(n=1)^2$ and highly elaborated seven-membered ring containing systems 4, 5 $(n=2, \text{ Scheme 1}).^3$

The reaction protocol successfully accommodated both hydrindene (n=1) and octalin diol (n=2) bicyclic ring systems **1**, and proved compatible with a large array of functional groups and solvents.⁴ The process permits a high number of consecutive bond-breaking/making operations in one synthetic vessel, where one can recognize two important subsets of "olefin click reactions":⁵ oxidations by electrophilic reagents and cycloaddition reactions. In the absence of the olefin, only the expected



Scheme 1. (a) 2.5 equiv. Pb(OAc)₄, MeCN, rt; (b) K_2CO_3 -MeOH-H₂O, rt; (c) LiAlH₄-Et₂O, 0°C then, acetone, *p*TosOH, (d) 1.2 equiv. PhI(OAc)₂, PhMe, rt; then (ca. 24 h) 1 equiv. Pb(OAc)₄, then (ca. 15 h) K_2CO_3 -MeOH-H₂O, rt.

Keywords: domino reactions; ring-expansion; olefin click reactions; lead tetraacetate; Thorpe-Ingold effect.

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glycol fission was obtained in all cases investigated.⁶ Another version of this process, using only one equivalent of lead tetraacetate, is the three-reagent consecutive hetero-domino reaction initiated by iodobenzene diacetate (oxidative/pericyclic transformation),⁷ continued by lead tetraacetate (ring expansion) and completed by a mild base consisting of solid K₂CO₃, in MeOH-H₂O (ring system interchange) all in one-pot (route d, Scheme 1).⁸ This route represents a remarkable example of maximization of molecular complexity while minimizing waste, where such a high number of transformations are performed without separations. With the aim of extending the synthetic scope of these domino transformations, our attention turned to alternative unsaturated diols that would delineate the scope of the process and, to this end, attention was focused on efforts to build up simpler templates. One could think that any unsaturated diol could be a substrate and thus, using a long connecting chain between the alcohol containing carbons, macrocyclic molecules could have been synthesized following the 4+2 step. In the present paper, we test whether monocyclic unsaturated 1,2-diols will undergo similar reactions. The synthesis of the target substrates 6^9 and 7 began with the corresponding, commercially available, enones and used the acetoxylation (Pb(OAc)₄, PhH, reflux)-reduction (LiAlH₄, Et₂O, 0°C) protocol.¹⁰ Upon treatment with Pb(OAc)₄, monocyclic unsaturated diol 6 failed to yield any cyclic ene-acetal (such as 9, Scheme 2) under either set of conditions (varying the solvent and stoichiometry, prolonged heating, adding a Lewis acid such as $Ti(iPrO)_4$). Instead, 6 furnished only the dialdehyde 8, which remained essentially unchanged even after 60 h at 75°C in acetic acid or acetonitrile. This failure is most probably due to the conformational freedom of the internally linked bis-hetero diene/dienophile motif of the resulting dialdehyde 8; therefore the crucial cyclization to the half-cascade intermediate does not occur.

Diol 7 was designed to overcome this drawback and evaluate the contribution of the Thorpe–Ingold effect.¹¹ The behavior of 7 is in sharp contrast with that of 6. Indeed, inserting a *gem*-dimethyl group into the ring

system promoted cyclization and thus led to ring expanded full-cascade products, 14 and 15, arising from the un-isolable half cascade intermediate 11. Formation of the cyclic ene-acetal 11 was inferred from the NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture when only one equiv. of Pb(OAc)₄ was used. Upon subjection to our standard cascade conditions, 2.5 equiv. of $Pb(OAc)_4$ in acetonitrile or acetic acid, at room temperature, the gem-dimethyl derivative 7 (used as cis-trans mixture, but also as pure cis or trans diols) furnished the dioxabicyclo[2.2.2]octane derivatives 14 and 15 in a 9:1 ratio in 62% combined yield after purification. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC and the full cascade products were isolated after 5 h reaction time. The initially formed cycloadduct, cyclic ene-acetal 11, in equilibrium with the ring opened dialdehyde 10, readily underwent ring opening to give the ring enlarged compounds 14 and 15. The diastereomers were separated by flash chromatography, using heptane/ethyl acetate, 3:1 as eluent to afford a 6% yield of 15, the less polar minor isomer (contaminated with small amounts of 14), and 56% yield of 14, the more polar, major isomer.

With regard to the reaction mechanism, the oxidative cleavage/bis-hetero IMDA route is thought to generate the postulated carbocation intermediate 13. The latter reacts with the acyl group to furnish the corresponding dioxa-bicyclo[2.2.2]octane derivatives 14 and 15. The key transformation is triggered by an electrophilic attack of the metal on the electron rich double bond of 11, which sets up the ring expansion process via the transient organolead intermediate 12. Such reactions of metal on double bonds are well known in literature;¹² the olefin is attacked by the metal, thus creating a carbon-lead bond and bringing the acetate functionalities within reach of the putative carbocationic centers. The structures of the compounds thus obtained were deduced by NMR techniques and by analogy to our earlier results. Assignment of configuration to these two diastereomers was possible by a study of spatial proximity effects using 1D-NOEDIFF.¹³ The C-3 (C-5) configuration of 14 followed from NOE experiments where irradiation of methyl (δ 1.30) led to enhance-





Scheme 3. (a) Pb(OAc)₄, CD₃COOD, rt; (b) Pb(OAc)₄, (S)-2-acetoxypropionic acid, rt.

ments of the H-3 (H-5) (δ 6.43), H-4 (δ 2.12) and H-7 $(\delta 1.78)$ signals. Hence H-3 (H-5) protons must lie on the same face of the molecule confirming the location and the configuration of the 3α -acetoxy group. The minor isomer was assigned as 15 on the basis of diagnostic NOEs for the protons attached to C-3 and C-5 observed upon irradiation of the gem-methyl-a and gem-methyl-b group signal, respectively. Thus, transannular enhancements were observed between H-3 (δ 6.49) and methyl-a for which the chemical shift was unequivocally established at δ 1.23 on the minor dioxabicyclo[2.2.2]octane derivative 15. Failure to observe an enhancement at the C-5 H (δ 6.53) on irradiation of the C-8 methyl-b (δ 1.40) group provides evidence that they are on opposite faces of the molecule, an observation in agreement with NMR data, where in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, resonances for all protons and carbons were observed due to the lack of symmetry. In the case of 14, the eight-line ¹³C NMR spectrum revealed its symmetrical structure.

Consideration of the pathway shown in Scheme 2 suggests that 14 and 15 are derived from the carbocation 13; this has been validated by carrying out the cascade rearrangements in CD₃CO₂D and (*S*)-*O*-acetyllactic acid ((*S*)-2-acetoxypropionic acid). Domino reactions of 7 conducted at room temperature in CD₃CO₂D proceeded cleanly. The deuterium labeled dioxa-bicy-clo[2.2.2]octane derivatives 14-d6 and 15-d6, were obtained in 66% isolated yield via in situ metathesis (Scheme 3).¹⁴ The ESI mass spectrum of 14-d6 exhibited a molecular ion at m/z 287 (*M*+Na) and m/z 303 (*M*+K) consistent with the molecular formula $C_{12}H_{12}D_6O_6$.

A control experiment, in which 14 was stirred in CD_3CO_2D , gave a very low level of exchange; ca. 5% of 14-d6 was detected even after 3 days. Upon treatment with 2 equiv. of $Pb(OAc)_4$ in (S)-2-acetoxypropionic acid and proceeding as above, diol 7 gave, following chromatographic purification, 16 (46%; ca. 9:1 ratio) together with 17 (15%), both as an unseparable diastereomeric mixture, characterized as such. The presence of ca. 15% of mixed cascade intermediates 17 can be explained by the competitive pathways involving participation of the reagent's acetate group versus the solvent's one. The observed incorporation of deuterium into the end products 14-d6, 15-d6 and of the (S)-Oacetyl lactyl moiety into the end products 16, 17 rationalizes the mechanism depicted in Scheme 2, where carbocation intermediate 13 originate from the cyclic ene-acetal 11.

To summarize, in the case of **6**, lacking the rigidity, only the dialdehyde **8** derived from a simple glycol fission was observed. In the case of **7**, containing the *gem*-dimethyl group in the "connecting chain", restriction of conformational freedom enhanced reactivity, since the *gem*-dimethylated analogue underwent cascade transformations. But the Thorpe–Ingold effect, the effect of alkyl substitution to facilitate ring closure reactions, is known to operate only in small rings, and this is a limiting factor. In conclusion, the limits of the Pb(OAc)₄-mediated domino transformations are illustrated with two selected examples, revealing an important limitation to the method: any unsaturated olefin cannot be regarded as a substrate.

Structures of products were assigned by comprehensive spectral data (NMR spectra were measured at 300 and 600 MHz ¹H; 75 and 150 MHz ¹³C, in CDCl₃); no special efforts were taken to optimize these reactions.¹⁵

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- 8. Typical procedure for route "d": To a solution of 5 mmol of the selected unsaturated diol 1 in 50 mL of anhydrous toluene under inert atmosphere, 6 mmol of PhI(OAc)₂, 5 mmol of Pb(OAc)₄ and 27.5 mmol of K₂CO₃ in 60 mL of MeOH/H₂O, 8:1 are added sequentially at room temperature. In both series (n=1 and 2), the reaction sequence can be monitored by TLC (heptane/EtOAc, 1:1) with all intermediates and the final products possessing distinct $R_{\rm f}$ values. A few minutes after addition of PhI(OAc)2, two new higher $R_{\rm f}$ spots appear on the TLC: a UV active spot (dialdehyde) together with a second, higher $R_{\rm f}$, non-UV active one (cyclic ene-acetal). Stirring is maintained under argon for 24 h, at which point Pb(OAc)₄ is added; the first two spots disappear and a third non-UV active lower $R_{\rm f}$ spot, corresponding to 2 (n=1) or 4 (n=2) appears. Finally, after an extra 15 h stirring, addition of the base completes the transformation. Compounds 5 thus obtained, have been fully characterized in our previous publications (Refs. 2 and 3).
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- Given the fact that Pb(OAc)₄ mediated domino transformations are insensitive to diol stereochemistry, the starting diols 6 and 7 were used as diastereomeric mixtures. However, we separated the racemic *cis* and *trans* diols for characterization purposes. Faster eluting *cis*-diol-6: IR (film): 3391, 2913, 1667, 1432, 1377, 1262, 1218, 1155, 1119, 1071, 1049, 995, 961, 902, 848 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: 1.69

(3H, s), 1.73-2.19 (4H, m), 3.26-3.58 (2H, m), 3.67-3.82 (1H, m), 4.06 (1H, bs), 5.44 (1H, bs). ¹³C NMR: 23.2, 25.7, 28.5, 66.7, 68.7, 121.6, 139.3. Slower eluting transdiol-6: mp: 58-60°C (heptane/ether). IR (film): 3435, 2914, 1673, 1651, 1434, 1377, 1264, 1227, 1155, 1062, 1029, 1007, 970, 937, 905, 875, 807 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: 1.67 (3H, s), 1.63-2.20 (4H, m), 3.51-3.61 (1H, m), 3.96-4.31 (2H, m), 4.05 (1H, bs), 5.27 (1H, bs). ¹³C NMR: 22.7, 28.7, 29.6, 73.5 (2C), 123.1, 136.9. EI MS: 128 ([M]⁺, 10), 84 (100), 83 (55). Anal. calcd for C₇H₁₂O₂: C, 65.60; H, 9.44; found: C, 65.54; H, 9.38. 7 (trans): mp: 56-58°C (heptane/ether). IR (film): 3418, 2956, 2920, 2864, 1651, 1645, 1633, 1469, 1455, 1361, 1257, 1058, 946, 876 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: 1.03 (3H, s), 1.05 (3H, s), 1.49 (1H, t, *J*=12.7), 1.74 (1H, dd, J=3.2, 12.7), 3.44–3.87 (2H, m), 3.72 (1H, ddd, J=3.2, 7.8, 12.7), 4.04 (1H, d, J=7.8), 5.38 (1H, d, J=10.6), 5.42 (1H, d, J=10.6). ¹³C NMR: 28.8, 31.0, 34.9, 43.2, 71.7, 74.3, 125.5, 139.0. EI MS: 142 ([M]+, 0.03), 124 (1.5), 109 (1), 98 (100), 86 (20), 83 (10), 55 (10), 41 (10). Anal. calcd for C₈H₁₄O₂: C, 67.57; H, 9.92; found: C, 67.24; H,10.12. A dry flask was charged with starting diols 7 (123 mg, 0.87 mmol) and Pb(OAc)₄ (960 mg, 2.16 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), vacuumed and flushed with argon several times. Dry acetic acid (3 mL) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h, at which point TLC indicated complete consumption of starting diols. Dilution with ether followed by washing with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, till neutral pH, and brine, drying over MgSO₄, and concentration under reduced pressure afforded 139 mg (62%) of a mixture of 14 and 15. A careful silica gel, flash column chromatography, eluent heptane/EtOAc, 3:1, allowed separation and hence identification of pure 14: IR (film): 2968, 1735, 1369, 1223, 1178, 1127, 1050, 962, 872 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: 1.30 (6H, s), 1.77–1.79 (2H, m), 2.12 (1H, dd, J=0.9, 3.2), 2.14 (6H, s), 4.98 (1H, t, J=2.1),6.43 (2H, d, J=1.7). ¹³C NMR: 21.2 (2C), 28.4 (2C), 29.0, 41.7, 41.8, 91.9 (2C), 92.9, 169.8 (2C). ESI MS: 297 $([MK]^+, 5), 281 ([MNa]^+, 100), 539 ([2 \times M + Na]^+, 18).$ 15 was contaminated with some 14 thus, it was better characterized in its deuterium labeled form, as pure 15-d6. Proceeding as above, 7 (152 mg, 1.07 mmol), and Pb(OAc)₄ (1185 mg, 2.67 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were stirred at room temperature in a large excess of deuterated acetic acid (10 mL) for 22.5 h. The large excess of labeled acetic acid is to ensure metathesis of the acetate by the labeled carboxylate, while the extra stirring time is to remove as much as possible the left-over non-labeled acetoxy group, by exchange (and hence to measure the extent of exchange). Work up and flash chromatography using heptane/EtOAc 3:1 as eluent afforded 169 mg (60%) of 14-d6 and 18 mg (6%) of 15-d6. The unlabeled 14 is present as could be seen from proton, contribution from the unlabeled counterpart at 2.15 (MeCO), from carbon, at 21.2 (MeCO) and Electron Spray Ionization Mass spectra, $C_{12}H_{18}O_6$ at m/z 281 ([MNa]⁺, 12), 297 ([MK]⁺, 5).

14-d6: IR (film): 2966, 2875, 1725, 1638, 1447, 1368, 1278, 1229, 1178, 1127, 1047, 999, 944 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: 1.30 (6H, s, Me-gem), 1.78 (2H, d, J=2.0, H-7), 2.12 (1H, t, J=1.5, H-4), 5.27 (1H, t, J=2.0, H-1), 6.43 (2H, d, J=1.5, H-3, H-5). ¹³C NMR: 20.5 (CD₃), 28.4 (Me-gem),

29.0 (Cq-8), 41.7 (C-4), 41.8 (C-7), 91.9 (C-3, C-5), 93.0 (C-1), 169.9 (MeCO). ESI MS: 303 ($[MK]^+$, 12), 287 ($[MNa]^+$, 100). **15-d6**: ¹H NMR: 1.23 (3H, s, Me-a), 1.40 (3H, s, Me-b), 1.81 (1H, dd, J=3.0, 13.7, H-7a), 1.87 (1H, t, J=13.7, H-7b), 2.08–2.24 (1H, m, H-4), 5.31 (1H,

bs, H-1), 6.49 (1H, d, J=2.9, H-3), 6.53 (1H, d, J=2.9, H-5). ¹³C NMR: 20.5 and 20.7 (CD_3), 28.0, 30.6 (Me-b), 30.7 (Me-a), 41.3 (C-7), 41.6 (C-4), 91.2 (C-5), 91.6 (C-3), 93.9 (C-1), 169.5 (MeCO), 170.2 (MeCO). ESI MS: 287 ([MNa]⁺, 100).