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# Gold(I)-catalyzed stereoselective cyclization of *ortho* alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complexes with nucleophiles

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#### ABSTRACT

Gold(I)-catalyzed cyclization of *o*-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complexes gave stereoselectively 1-*anti*- and *syn*-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes, respectively, depending on the nature of nucleophiles. Enantiomerically pure *trans*- and *cis*-1,3-dimethylisochromans were stereoselectively prepared from a single planar chiral *o*-(1-propynyl)benzaldehyde chromium complex.

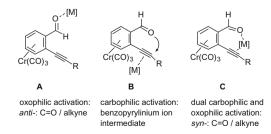
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Oxygen and nitrogen heterocycles are common structural components of a wide range of naturally occurring and biologically active molecules. The development of efficient methods for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds is of central importance in organic synthesis. An attractive route to the functionalized heterocycles is via X-H bond of nitrogen or oxygen nucleophile across the carbon-carbon multibond. An activation of the triple bond is normally required for the achievement of this process. Thus, halogen,<sup>2</sup> ArSeBr, <sup>2</sup> Ipy<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>4</sub><sup>3</sup> or transition metals<sup>4</sup> are employed for the activation of alkyne. Transition metal-catalyzed electrophilic activation of alkynes has attracted much attention as a useful method, and the generated metal-containing benzopyrylium-type intermediates is considered a common process, which upon further treatment with various partners, such as nucleophiles, alkynes, alkenes, and carbonyl compounds, result in diverse products.<sup>5</sup> In particular, gold has emerged as a powerful homogeneous catalyst for the electrophilic activation of alkynes, and has been demonstrated in useful organic transforming reactions.<sup>6</sup> However, the cyclized 1-functionalized heterocycles are normally obtained as achiral compounds by this methodology, although a chiral center is created. Directed toward the synthesis of optically active 1-functionalized-1H-isochromenes, we studied gold(I)-catalyzed electrophilic cyclization of planar chiral chromium complexes of ortho alkynyl benzaldehyde with nucleophiles.

In the case of tricarbonylchromium-complexed o-alkynyl benzaldehydes, the structure of the metal-coordinated intermediates is significant for a relative stereochemistry of the cyclized 1-functionalized 1H-isochromene tricarbonylchromium complexes. Three activation modes by the coordination with metal are devised (Fig. 1). In the transition state  $\bf A$ , metal activates carbonyl group in which carbonyl oxygen is an anti-conformation with ortho alkyne substituent due to a steric interaction. On the other hand, the alkyne in the intermediate  $\bf B$  is activated by metal giving metal-con-

tained benzopyrylinium ion intermediate.<sup>7</sup> The transition state **C** has dual carbophilic and oxophilic activations<sup>8</sup> by metal such as In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> catalyst at the same time. Since nucleophiles attack the metal-coordinated intermediates from an opposite side of the tricarbonylchromium fragment, a relative stereochemistry at the benzylic position of the cyclized 1-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes obtained from the transition state **A** is distinct from that of derived from the other intermediates **B** and **C**. Thus, the substituent at the benzylic position of 1-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes derived from the transition state **A** is *syn*-configuration with the tricarbonylchromium fragment, while the corresponding substituent arised from intermediates **B** or **C** is *anti*-configuration.

With this in mind, we initially studied metal-catalyzed reaction of o-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complexes 1 with alcohols 2 as nucleophile. Among various metal catalysts studied in this research, gold bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imidate, Ph<sub>3</sub>PAuNTf<sub>2</sub>, gave best result.<sup>9</sup> The reaction took place stereo- and regioselectively with primary and secondary alcohols in good yields to give 6-endo-dig cyclization products, 1-anti-alkoxy-1H-isochromene chromium complexes 3 (Table 1). The methoxy group of 3aa was confirmed as an anti-configuration by X-ray crystallography. The



**Figure 1.** Activated form of *o*-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complex with metal

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**Table 1**Gold(I)-catalyzed reaction of o-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complexes with alcohols

Entry	1	$R^1$	R <sup>2</sup> OH ( <b>2</b> )	3	Yield (%)
1	1a	Me	MeOH (2a)	3aa	80
2	1a	Me	<sup>i</sup> PrOH ( <b>2b</b> )	3ab	60
3	1a	Me	$CH_2 = CHCH_2OH (2c)$	3ac	83
4	1a	Me	$HC \equiv CCH_2OH (2d)$	3ad	62
5	1b	"Bu	MeOH ( <b>2a</b> )	3ba	71
6	1c	Ph	MeOH (2a)	3ca	73
7	1d	SiMe <sub>3</sub>	MeOH <b>(2a</b> )	3da	66

cyclization products **3** were derived from *anti*-addition of alcohols to the generated chromium-complexed benzopyrinium intermediates derived from the transition state **B**. TMS-substituted alkyne chromium complex **1d** gave also 6-*endo-dig* cyclization product **3da** (entry 7), while the treatment of **1d** with 2 M aqueous NaOH in MeOH at room temperature produced stereoselectively 5-*exo-dig* cyclization product with loss of TMS group.<sup>10</sup> It is worthwhile that the cyclization mode of *o*-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complexes is distinct between Au(I)-catalyzed reaction and base-mediated cyclization.

We next turned attention to the metal-catalyzed cyclization of o-alkynyl benzaldehyde tricarbonylchromium complexes 1 with carbon pronucleophiles. Treatment of 1a with allyl tri-n-butylstannane in the presence of 5 mol % gold(I) catalyst at room temperature for 30 min, then the addition of 10 equiv MeOH and further stirring at rt for 4.5 h gave interestingly 1-syn-allyl-1H-isochromene chromium complex 5a in 17% yield along with the formation of a single diastereomeric-allylated benzyl alcohol chromium complex **4a** in 40% yield (Scheme 1). The corresponding *anti*-allyl isomer was not detected. The syn stereochemistry of allyl group of the cyclization product **5a** was confirmed by X-ray crystallography. Similarly, ketene trimethylsilyl ethyl acetal afforded a mixture of syn-functionalized isochromene chromium complex 5b and benzylalcohol trimethylsilyl ether 4b in 19% and 38% yields, respectively, by treatment with Au(I) catalyst at −20 °C for 10 min and following reflux for overnight after the addition of 10 equiv MeOH and H<sub>2</sub>O for cleavage of the generated alkoxy-metal bond. The synfunctionalized-1H-isochromene chromium complexes 5a and 5b would be formed via diastereoselective nucleophile addition to the anti-oriented carbonyl group in the metal-coordinated intermediate A and subsequent intramolecular cyclication of hydroxy group with metal-activated alkyne group. Thus, gold bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imidate catalysis in the reaction of chromiumcomplexed o-alkynyl benzaldehyde with carbon nucleophile serves as a multicatalysis<sup>11</sup> for the activation of carbonyl and subse-

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CHO} & \frac{5 \text{mol}\%}{P h_3 P \text{AuNT} f_2} \\ \text{Carbon nucleophile} \\ \text{The naddition of aq MeOH} \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2\text{CI}_2) \\ \text{Or } (\text{CH}_2\text{CI}_2\text$$

**Scheme 1.** Gold(I)-catalyzed reaction of o-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complex with carbon nucleophile.

quently alkyne groups with catalytic transformation stepwise. The low yield of the cyclized isochromene chromium complexes 5 would be contributed to the slow cleavage of the generated benzyl trimethylsilyl ether intermediate, and decrease of activity of the gold catalyst by the addition of aqueous MeOH.

The low yield of 1-syn-functionalized isochromene chromium complexes by one-pot synthesis was improved by stepwise reaction via benzyl alcohol derivatives as follows. Chromium complex 1a was reacted with allyl tri-n-butylstannane in the presence of 5 mol % Ph<sub>3</sub>PAuNTf<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at -20 °C to give diastereomerically single-allylated secondary benzyl alcohol chromium complex 4a in 73% yield (Table 2). Similarly, ketene enolsilyl acetal produced the corresponding benzylalcohol chromium complex 4b (entry 2). Thus, a highly efficient addition of nucleophiles to the aldehyde was achieved with catalytic amount of the Au(1) catalyst or other hard Lewis acids, for example, BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> or TiCl<sub>4</sub>. The obtained oalkynyl benzyl alcohol chromium complexes 4 were treated with 5 mol % gold(I) catalyst at rt to give 1-syn-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes 5 in good yields without the formation of the corresponding 5-exo-dig cyclization products. 12.5b

The alkoxy group of 1-*anti*-alkoxy 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes **3** can be used as a key for further manipulation. Thus, methoxy group of 1-*anti*-methoxy-1*H*-isochromene chromium complex **3aa** was substituted with carbon nucleophiles by treatment with Lewis acid to afford 1-*anti*-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes **6** via chromium-complexed benzylic carbocation<sup>13</sup> (Table 3). In this manner, both 1-*anti*- and 1-*syn*-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene tricarbonylchromium complexes can be stereoselectively prepared from a single *o*-substituted benzaldehyde chromium complex.

**Table 2**Two-step synthesis of 1-syn-functionalized isochromene chromium complexes

Nu-	4	Yield (%)		5	Yield (%)
		A	B (Lewis acid)		
$CH_2$ = $CHCH_2Sn(n-Bu)_3$ $CH_2$ = $C(OSiMe_3)OEt$ $Et_2AlC$ = $CBu^n$ Mel i	4b 4c	56 97	60 (BF <sub>3</sub> OEt <sub>2</sub> ) 58 —	5a 5b 5c	68 69 31 80
	CH <sub>2</sub> =CHCH <sub>2</sub> Sn(n-Bu) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> =C(OSiMe <sub>3</sub> )OEt	$CH_2 = CHCH_2Sn(n-Bu)_3$ $CH_2 = C(OSiMe_3)OEt$ $Et_2AIC = CBu^n$ $4a$	$\begin{array}{c cccc} & & & \hline & & \\ \hline CH_2=CHCH_2Sn(n-Bu)_3 & \textbf{4a} & 73 \\ CH_2=C(OSiMe_3)OEt & \textbf{4b} & 56 \\ Et_2AIC=CBu^n & \textbf{4c} & 97 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

<sup>a</sup> TBAF was added to the reaction mixture for deprotection of O-SiMe<sub>3</sub> bond.

 $^{\mbox{\scriptsize b}}$  The reaction took place in ether without Au(I) or Lewis acid.

**Table 3**Lewis acid-mediated transformation of 1-anti-methoxy isochromene chromium complex **3a** 

Entry	Nu-	Lewis acid	6	Nu	Yield (%)
1	Me <sub>3</sub> Al	_	6a	Me	99
2	$CH_2 = CHCH_2Sn(n-Bu)_3$	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub>	6b	$CH_2CH=CH_2$	60
3	$CH_2=C(OSiMe_3)OEt$	TiCl <sub>4</sub>	6c	CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Et	72
4	Me₃SiCN	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub>	6d	CN	56
5	$Et_2AlC = CBu^n$	$BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$	6e	$C = CBu^n$	74

Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (i) n-BuLi, ether, -78 °C to -40 °C; then  $BrF_2CCF_2Br$ , -40 °C to 0 °C (77%); (ii) trimethylsilyl acetylene, 5 mol %  $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$ , 5 mol %  $Pd(Ph_3)_2Cl_3$ , 5 mol % P

We furthermore extended these procedures to the synthesis of enantiomerically pure trans- and cis-1,3-dimethylisochromans as shown in Scheme 2. Diastereoselective ortho lithiation <sup>14</sup> of (+)-(benzylidene)methyl-α-p-glucopyranoside chromium complex 7 followed by bromination with 1,2-dibromo-1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane gave (+)-o-brominated chromium complex 8. The (+)-o-brominated chromium complex 8 was converted to (-)-o-(prop-1ynyl)benzaldehyde tricarbonylchromium complex (9) with 99.5% ee by several steps. The chromium complex 9 was reacted with MeOH in the presence of 5 mol % of PPh<sub>3</sub>AuNTf<sub>2</sub> followed by treatment with Me<sub>3</sub>Al to give (-)-1-anti-methyl-3-methyl-1H-isochromene chromium complex (10) in good yield. Reduction of double bond of the complex 10 with Et<sub>3</sub>SiH/CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H followed by air oxidation gave (+)-trans-1,3-dimethylisochroman (11).15 On the other hand, air oxidation of 10 and subsequent reduction with 10% Pd/C under one atmospheric hydrogen afforded (-)-cis-1,3dimethylisochroman (12).<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, MeLi addition to benzaldehyde chromium complex 9 followed by gold(I)-catalyzed cycliafforded (-)-1-syn-methyl-3-methyl-1H-isochromene chromium complex (13) in good yield. The chromium complex 13 was converted to (+)-ent-12 by reduction of the double bond and subsequent photo-oxidation. In this way, enantiomerically pure trans- and both enantiomers of cis-1,3-dimethylisochromans were stereoselectively prepared from a single planar chiral arene chromium complex 9.

In conclusion, gold(I)-catalyzed cyclization of *o*-alkynyl benzaldehyde chromium complexes gave stereoselectively 1-*anti*- and *syn*-functionalized 1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes depending on the nature of nucleophiles. With alcohol nucleophiles, 1-*anti*-alkoxy-1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes were stereoselectively obtained via gold benzopyrylium-type intermediates, while carbon pronucleophiles gave 1-*syn*-functionalized-1*H*-isochromene chromium complexes via the addition of nucleophiles to the activated carbonyl group and following cyclization. Gold(I) catalyst serves as multicatalyst during a single operation in sequential fashion.

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