X=Y-ZH SYSTEMS AS POTENTIAL 1,3-DIPOLES. PART 20.1 DECARBOXYLATION OF α -IMINO ACIDS. MECHANISM AND APPLICATIONS TO THIOAMIDE SYNTHESIS

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4-Imino acids, prepared fronti-keto acids and primary amines, undergo facile decarboxylation to the corresponding imines on heating at 680°C in benzene or methylene chlorid Decarboxylation proceeds via a 1,2-ylide which can be trappe by sulphur to give the corresponding secondary thioamides in good yield. $1,2$ -Ylides from secondary amines and ∞ -ke acids can be generated in situ and trapped with sulphur to give tertiary thioamides in excellent yield

Pyridoxal enzymes are responsible for a wide range of biochemical transformations of x-amino acids. We have recently provided evidence that many of these processes in vitro, in which the carboxylic acid group is either retained² or lost³, involve 1,3-dipoles. Thus we have shown that decarboxylative transamination⁴ proceeds via cyclisation of the initial imine (1) to an oxazolidine-S-one (2) followed by cycloreversion with loss of carbon dioxide to generate an anti-azomethine ylide (3) usually stereospecifically or with high stereoselectivity. $^{\bf 1,\bf 5,\bf 6}$

The related biochemical transamination processes effected by pyridoxal enzymes involve initial prototropy of the imine (1) \rightarrow (4).⁷ The isomeric imine (4) is an imine of an o-keto acid. Non-oxidative enzyme catalysed decarboxylation of o-keto acids to aldehydes involves adduct formation with thiamine pyrophosphate via C-C bond formation and it is generally considered that this is essential because[«]-keto acids lack a suitable electron sink to stabilise negative charge development during decarboxylation.^{8,9} However, it is well known that pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (Sal and the related betaines (5b) undergo ready decarboxylation to the ylides (6a) and (6b) respectively, which can be trapped by aldehydes and other electrophiles (Haamick reaction). 10 Furthermore, the ready deprotonation of axolium cations (7a) at $C(2)$ to give $(8)^{11}$ is the basis of the biochemistry of thiamine pyrophosphate^{8,9,12} and important synthetic methodology for C-C bond formation.¹³ Ylide (8) is also readily generated by decarboxylation of the corresponding azolium 2-carboxylates (7b). 14 Thus the moiety (9) possesses intrinsic stabilising features when part of an aromatic ring in which R is a heteroatom or an sp² carbon centre. The enhanced stability is usually attributed to carbene resonance (9) \leftrightarrow (10), but it is unclear if the presence of the ring provides additional stability. Prior to our work¹⁵ acyclic examples of 1,2-ylides (9) had not been reported although our STO-JG calculations indicate that acyclic cases of (9) with certain substituents should be more stable than (6a), with

stabilisation of (9) increasing in the order $R=NO_2$ $\lt Ph < p-MeOC_6H_4$ $p-0.2$ NC₆H₄ \leq SMe.¹⁶ The existence of acyclic ylides of type (9) was foreshadowed in earlier experiments on the decarboxylation of certain α -keto acids (pyruvic and benzoylformic), in the presence of catalytic amounts of primary amines, carried out by Boklund¹⁷ and by Langenbeck.¹⁸ We have studied several series of imines as potential precursors of acyclic ylides (9) and these are now considered in turn.

Reactions of&-Keto Acids with Primary Aaines

a. Benzylaaincs. A series of inines (lla-e) was prepared by stirring a mixture of d-keto acid and the appropriate benzylemine in methylaae chloride et room temperature for 15 min. during which time the d-imino acid crystalliscd out in quantitative yield.

d-Ieino acids (Ila-e) are smoothly decarboxylated to (12a-e) on heating in boiling benzene for less than 30 min. Decarboxylation of the imino acids (lla-e) **might proceed via prototropy, cyclisation and decarboxylation** $(4) \rightarrow (1) \rightarrow (2) \rightarrow$ (3), followed by subsequent prototropy (3)(Ar=CH₂Ar)+(12). This mechanism was ruled out since decarboxylation of the deuterated **d-imino** acid (13) in boiling **methylene chloride for 4h afforded (14), in which the deuterium label was located solely on the imine carbon atom. The signal for the iaine proton (CH-N) of (12b) et8 8.2 was absent in (14) and mass spectrometry confirmed the regiospecific** deuteration. Thus both (14) and (12b) exhibit the same ratio of peaks at m/z 121 and m/z 122. The peak at m/z 121 is due to p -MeOC₆H₄CH₂^{$+$} (or more **correctly the corresponding tropyliua ion) and is the base peak in both spectra.** Any isomerisation of the type (1) ¹(4) would be expected to proceed via the **1,3-dipole (15). However, when imine (12b) was heated in boiling methylene chloride in the presence of N-phenylsaleinide (NPM) (an excellent dipolarophile)2 only the decarboxylation product (12b) was obtained and the NPM was recovered** quantitatively. Decarboxylation can be achieved without isolation of the **o**-imino acid. Thus benzoylformic acid and benzylamine react (CH₂C1₂, 40⁰C, 3h) to **give a quantitative yield of (12a).**

b, Aliphatic Amines. Aliphatic imino acids (16a) and (16b) were prepared in e similar manner to (lla-e) except that (16e) required a'longer reaction time (14h) and (16b) was prepared in benzene as solvent. Decarboxylation of (16a) and (16b) to the corresponding imines (17a) and (17b) occurs rapidly (< 0.5h) in boiling **benzene.**

c. Arylamines. The para substituent on the benzene ring has the expected effect on rate of formation of d-imino acid in aethylene chloride at room temperature. Monitoring by p.m.r. gave the following order and time for formation of the imfno acids (16c-e): Me0 (5min) > H (60min) > NO₂ (240min). When benzoylformic acid **end p-arylamines are heated in boiling methylene chloride consecutive d-imino acid formation and decarboxyletion occur furnishing (17c-e) in good yield with the rate again dependant, as expected, on the p-substituent of the arylamine: Me0** $(1.67dy) > H(5dy) > N0₂ (11dy).$

Reactions aEM-Keto Acids with Hydrazine Derivatives

The hydrazones (16f-h) were prepared by reacting benzoylformic acid with the appropriate hydrazine in methylene chloride at room temperature. The hydrazone derivatives nndergo thermal decarboxylation nore slowly than the corresponding aliphatic- and benzyl-imines. Thus (16f) requires heating at 80°C (benzene or

acetonitrile) for 2-3 dy to effect conversion to (17f), whilst decarboxylation of (16g) to give (17g) requires heating for ca.14h in benzene. When both of these reactions were repeated in the presence of N-methylaaleimide the products were exclusively (17f) and (178) respectively showing 1,3-dipoles (18) were not being produced in these reactions. We have previously shown that azomethine imine formation by thermal 1,2-prototropy occurs in certain hydrazones.¹⁹

In contrast to (16f) and (16g), the hydrazone (16h) on heating in boiling benzene for lh undergoes fragmentation to bentonitrile and 1,3,4-triazole (19).

Mechanism and Capture of Intermediate Ylide with Sulphur

The deuterium labelling experiment and the failure of attempts to trap intermediate 1,3-dipoles with N-substituted maleimides points to a common mechanism for the decarboxylation of the imines of d -keto acids and primary amines and the hydrazones (16f) and (16g). By analogy with the Hamsick reaction the mechanism is believed to be that outlined in the Scheme.

SCHEME

Attempts to trap the intermediate ylides (20) (Scheme) with aryl aldehydes were unsuccessful, although the reaction of the corresponding cyclic ylides (20) with appropriate electrophiles to give (22) appears to be quite general. 20 Transimination and competitive proton transfer (20) \rightarrow (21) intervene in our examples. However, reaction of the ot-imino acids (lla-e) and (16a-e) with a 10 molar excess of sul'phur in boiling benzene for ca. 20min. afforded the corresponding thioamides (23a-e) and (24a-e) in 70-808 yield, together with some of the corresponding decarboxylation products (12a-e) and (17a-e) respectively. The thioamides can be prepared directly from benzoylformic acid and the primary amine by heating with excess sulphur in boiling benzene. This is the method of choice for (23f). Trapping of azolium ylides (8) with sulphur has been reported previously. ²¹

Reactions of $\mathsf{A}\text{-Keto}$ Acids with Secondary Amines and Sulphur. When a mixture of a secondary amine, α -keto acid (25) and sulphur (10mol excess) are heated in boiling benzene for ca. 15 min., the corresponding thioamides (Table 1) are obtained as mixtures of geometrical isomers, e.g. (26) \Rightarrow (27), arising from restricted rotation about the thioamide bond, in near quantitative yield. The reaction appears to be general for secondary amines and the yields are invariably substantially better than those obtained from primary amines (above) due to the absence of the competing 1, 2-prototropy (20) \rightarrow (21) (Scheme). The reaction rate depends, as expected, on the nucleophilicity of the amine (Table 1). Pyruvic acid reacts with 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline and sulphur to give the corresponding thioaaide (26, R-Me) in good yield (Table 1). In contrast pyruvic acid, primary amines, and sulphur react to give complex mixtures of products. However, formation of (26, R-Me) shows the reaction functions even in cases where enaaine formation might intervene. It is interesting that when d -keto malonic acid (25, $R = CO₂H$) reacts with 1,2',3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline and sulphur, the product is (26, R-H), i.e. a double decarboxylation takes place. This suggests that either rapid intramolecular C-protonation of the initial ylide $(29) \rightarrow (30)$ occurs, possibly via hydrogen-bonded water, or that decarboxylation of the thioamide (31) is promoted by the ability of sulphur to stabilise an X-carbanion.

 (28)

Table 1. Thioamides from the reaction of α -keto acids (25), secondary

b. Estimated by p.m.r. spectroscopy

give broad signals.

Thioamides exhibit higher barriers to rotation about the C(S)-N bond than the corresponding rotation about the $C(0)-N$ bond in amides, 22 and, as expected, the thioamides listed in the Table 1 show the presence of two isomeric forms. The isomer ratios for the thioamides derived from 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline are collected in Table 2.

The major isomer from the isomeric mixture of (26) (27) (R=H) crystallised from a solution in 40-60°C petroleum ether when kept at O°C for 2dy. The stereochemistry of this major isomer was established as $(26, R=H)$ by n.O.e. experiments. Thus when the thioamide proton (CH=S) was irradiated a 9% enhancement of the signal for the NCH_2CH_2 protons was observed. Structures of the other aajor thioamide isomers are assigned by analogy with this case. A deuterochloroform solution of (26, R-H) is stable at room temperature for almost lh. after which time equilibration with $(27, R=H)$ becomes apparent and complete

Table 2. Isoaeric ratios of thioamides (26) and (27) determined by p.m.r. spectroscopy (250MHz) for deuterochloroform solutions at ca. ^OC R Ratio (26): (27)

equilibration is achieved after ca. 15h.

The hydrazone (16g) when heated with excess sulphur in boiling benzene for 14h. gives a mixture of thiadiatole (32) (42%) and imine (17g)(S8%).

Experimental. General experimental details are as previously noted.²³ Petroleum ether refers to the fraction with b.p. 40-60°C. General Procedure for the Preparation of Imines of ot-Keto Acids

A mixture of the x-keto acid (lOmmol) and primary amine (lOmmol) in methylene chloride (SOml) was stirred at room temperature for 15min. during which time the α -imino acid precipitated in quantitative yield. The products were crystalli from the appropriate solvent at room temperature to avoid premature decarboxylation. The physical and spectral data are collected in Tables 3 6 4. General Procedure for Decarboxylation of α -Imino Acids. A suspension of α -imino acid (0.4mmol) in dry benzene (25ml) or dry methylene chloride (25ml) was boile under reflux until decarboxylation was complete $(\leqslant 0.5h for benzene, typically 1–6h$ for methylene chloride). The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure to afford the imine in essentially quantitative yield. All the imines are known camp ound s .

Preparation of Deuterated α -Imino Acid (13). α -Imino acid (11b)(100mg) was dissolved in methanol-d₁ (2m1) and kept at room temperature for lOmin. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the process repeated a furthe two times to afford the product as colourless plates, m.p. 105-108⁰C (decomp) The p.m.r. spectrum of (13) was identical to that of the undeuterated materia (llb) (the CO $_2$ H proton was not observed in either spectrum) and the mass spectrum of (13) is identical to that of decarboxylated material (14)(b Decarboxylation of Deuterated d -Imino Acid (13). A suspension of d -imino acid 13)(100mg) in dry methylene chloride (Sml) was boiled under reflux for 4h. Evaporation of the solvent afforded the product (14)(83mg,100%) as a colourle
oil. & 7.65-6.64 (m,10H,ArH), 4.64 (s,2H,CH₂) and 3.66 (s,3H,OMe); m/z(%) 226 (M+,20), 225(2), 122(g), 121(100) and 77(S). Secondary Thioamide

General procedure

A mixture of \sim -imino acid (10mmol) and sulphur (100mmol, ten-fold excess) was boiled under reflux in dry benzene (50ml) for 20min., unless otherwise stated, during which time everything went into solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and MeOH (SOml) was added. The precipitated sulphur was filtered off and the filtrate evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the thioamide together with some imine. The crude thioamides were purified by preparative t.l.c. on silica gel PF_{254} + 366(Merck) eluting with 4:6 v/ \prime Et2O:petroleum ether followed by crystallization from an appropriate solven The physical and spectral data are collected in Tables 5 6 6. Tertiary thioamides

General procedur

A mixture of α -keto acid (10mmol), secondary amine (10mmol) and sulphur (lOOmmo1) in dry benzene (50~11) was boiled under reflux for 15min.. unless otherwise stated (50ml) was added. The reaction was left to reach room teuperature'and then MeOH The precipitated sulphur was removed by filtration and the filtrate evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product which was dissolved in ether (150ml). The ethereal solution filtered through a short column (SiO₂), the eluate evaporated, and the thioamide crystallized from an appropria solvent. Yields, physical and spectral data are collected in Tables 7 & 8. 2,5-Diphenyl-1,3-4-Thiadiazole (32)

Benzoylformic acid (N-benzoyl)hydrazone (10mmol) was boiled under reflux in dry benzene (50ml) with sulphur (100mmol) for 14h. The reaction mixture was filtered hot to separate the precipitated benzaldehyde (N-benzoyl)hydraz (58%). Methanol (50ml) was added to the filtrate, and the precipitated sulphur was filtered off. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford a pale
yellowish solid which was dissolved in Et₂0 (50ml) and filtered through a short Evaporation of the eluate afforded the

dried under air suction, and then crystallised from MeOH to give colourless plates, m.p. 207-208 $^{\rm o}$ $(1$ it.³¹210-212°C); $\sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{2}}$ 3180, 3040, 3010, 1630, 1590, 1280, 760, and 690 cm⁻¹ m/z(%) 224 (M⁺,6), lZI(38), and lOS(100), and 77(34);δ8.33 (s, H, CH=N) and 7.35 Cm, lOH, ArH).

 \mathcal{P}_{max}

J.

Table 3. Physical and analytical data for od-imino acids

(a) reaction time 14h; (b) benzene was used as solvent;
(c) 85% yield; (d) reaction time 5h.

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Table 5. Physical and analytical data for secondary thiogaides

a. A mixture of d-imino acid, amine and sulphur was used
b. Reaction time Sh.

Table 6 Spectroscopic data for secondary thioamides

a. Yields and reaction times are listed in Table 1.

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Table 8. Spectroscopic Data for Tertiary

 $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}}$

a. Mixtures of stereoisomers about the C(S)-N bond

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