

Syntheses in the Nitrogen π -Deficient Heterocycles Series Using a Barbier Type Reaction Under Sonication. Diazines. Part 29

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Received 7 January 2000; accepted 17 April 2000

Abstract—Barbier type reaction with lithium metal has been tested under sonication on pyridines, a cinnoline and on various diazines. This very convenient method allows a very fast and smooth functionalization of these heterocycles. © 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Introduction

The lithiation reaction is a well-known and powerful tool to functionalize the nitrogen π -deficient heterocyclic compounds. The metalation reaction¹ has been extensively studied in the pyridine series and more recently in the diazine series. Lithiated derivatives can also be prepared by the halogen–metal exchange reaction on pyridines^{1a,2} and on diazines.³ This less developed way can be performed with lithium alkyls or exceptionally with lithium alkylamides.⁴ A problem often encountered with these reactions is that they must be performed at very low temperature (-75°C) because these organolithium compounds are excessively reactive. However, this problem can be solved by the use of the Barbier reaction⁵ which allows the lithio derivatives formed in situ to react immediately with the electrophile. The slow attack of the metal by the halogen derivatives can be a problem, but this can be solved by the use of sonication. Indeed, sonication is known to afford an enhancement in the preparation of lithium or magnesium derivatives from metal powder. Luche⁶ has described easy syntheses using this technique and has obtained very good yields under mild conditions. However, to our knowledge, this very useful method has not been described in the

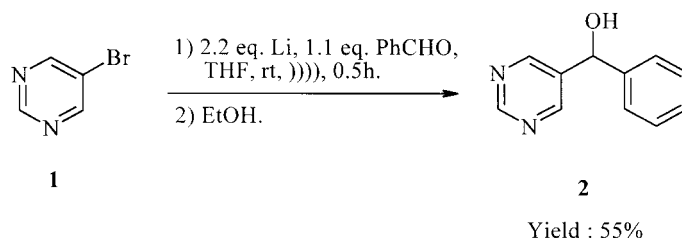
π -deficient heterocyclic series. So we decided to study this method in these series using a simple ultrasonic cleaning device.

In a first step, we have tested different experimental conditions with 5-bromopyrimidine **1**, then we have extended this reaction to the three diazines, two pyridines and a benzodiazine.

Results and Discussion

Experimental conditions were determined with the commercially available 5-bromopyrimidine **1**, using benzaldehyde as the electrophile (Scheme 1).

The reaction was tested with various solvents: THF, ether, cyclohexane, toluene and gave only results with THF. The relative proportion of the reactants and the reaction time were tested and the best result (55%) was obtained with 2.2 equiv. of lithium powder for 1 equiv. of 5-bromopyrimidine, a larger excess of lithium powder decreased the yield. The reaction time was 0.5 h, increasing this time did not enhance the yield.



Scheme 1. Tests on 5-bromopyrimidine.

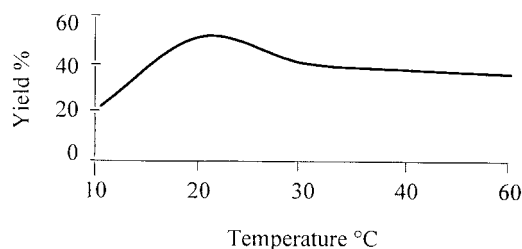
Keywords: Barbier reaction; lithium; diazines; sonochemistry.

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Table 1. Variation of the yield as a function of the temperature

| Entry | T (°C) | Yield (%) |
|-------|--------|-----------------|
| 1 | 10 | 21 |
| 2 | 20 | 55 ^a |
| 3 | 30 | 43 |
| 4 | 40 | 40 |
| 5 | 60 | 38 |

^a Without sonication: 27%.

**Figure 1.** Influence of the temperature on the yield.

The temperature was varied using the experimental conditions determined above (2.2 equiv. Li, 0.5 h). The results are listed in the following table and a curve has been pictured (Table 1, Fig. 1).

It can be noticed that the best yield occurred at room temperature. Lowering or increasing the reaction temperature decreased the yield. This is a well-known result for the reactions under sonication for which an optimum range of temperature exists.^{6c} At low temperature, the ultrasonic irradiation is not totally efficient, whereas at higher temperature, the cavitation is less efficient. Indeed, in this case, the presence of relatively large amounts of vaporized liquid in the bubbles of cavitation makes the collapse less energetic.

In order to check the usefulness of the sonication, a silent reaction was performed: the reaction rate was reduced and the yield was only 27% instead of 55%. When a very long time (one night) was used, the yield of the silent reaction was limited to 43%. These results proved the efficiency of sonication for this reaction.

Once suitable experimental conditions have been determined, we have extended this reaction to other nitrogen π -deficient heterocycles. Three electrophiles have been used: benzaldehyde, hexanal and diphenyl disulfide.

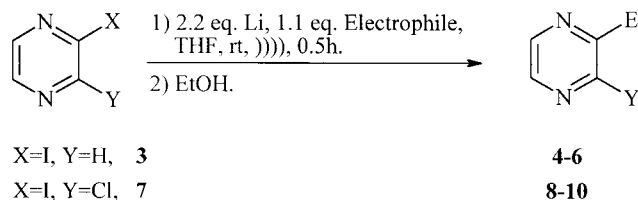
In the pyrazine series (Scheme 2, Table 2):

The good results observed with the chloro substituted derivative **7** reveals a good compatibility of this method with halogen substituents.

In the pyrimidine series:

The 5-bromopyrimidine and two iodopyrimidines were tested too, as shown in the following scheme (Scheme 3, Table 3).

Benzaldehyde was not used as an electrophile with the 2-iodo-4-methoxypyrimidine **13** because the alcohol so obtained was previously found to be unstable.⁷ It can be

**Scheme 2.** Tests on pyrazines.**Table 2.** Yields with pyrazines

| Entry | Compound | Electrophile | Product | Yield (%) |
|-------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 3 | PhCHO | 4 | 70 |
| 2 | 3 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 5 | 64 |
| 3 | 3 | PhSSPh | 6 | 44 |
| 4 | 7 | PhCHO | 8 | 70 |
| 5 | 7 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 9 | 60 |
| 6 | 7 | PhSSPh | 10 | 33 |

noticed that the presence of a methoxy or a methylsulfanyl group does not interfere with the reaction; although, it has been demonstrated that these groups could be cleaved in the presence of lithium powder.⁸

In the pyridazine series and with a cinnoline (Scheme 4, Table 4):

The cinnoline **28** gave no reaction when hexanal was used as the electrophile and the starting material was recovered.

In the pyridine series:

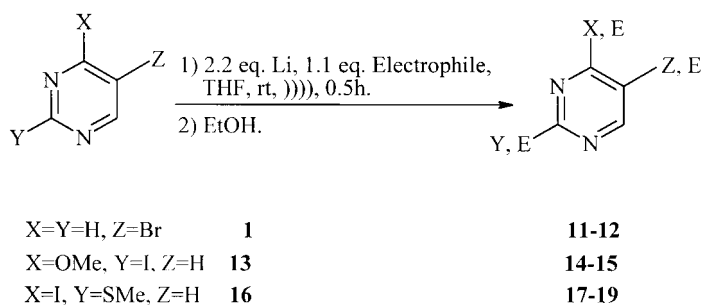
Thanks to the easy availability of bromo and iodo derivatives of pyridine, we could test the influence of the nature of the halogen, thus we used 2-bromopyridine **31**, 2-iodopyridine **32** and the benzaldehyde as an electrophile. The yields of alcohol **33** were 58 and 60%, respectively. As the reactivity of these two compounds was similar, we decided to use the commercially available 2-bromopyridine **31** and 3-bromopyridine **36** (Scheme 5, Table 5).

A comparison of all these results (Tables 1–5) indicates that the yields often followed the sequence: benzaldehyde > hexanal > diphenyl disulfide. These results could be explained by the fact that benzaldehyde is not enolizable contrary to hexanal and that diphenyl disulfide is a weaker electrophile than the aldehydes.

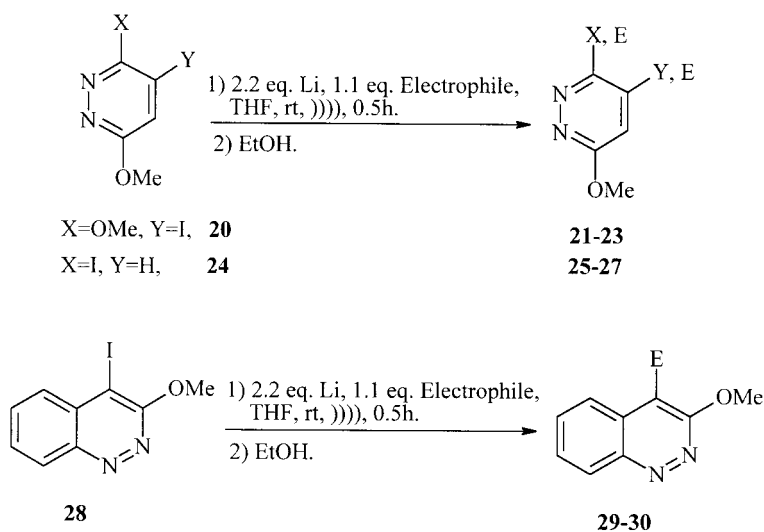
It must also be emphasized that the purity and the particle size of the lithium powder play a great role. The best results were obtained with a 0.5% amount of sodium in the lithium powder and a 50–200 μ particle size. In some cases, Luche⁶ found that a small amount of water in THF did not hinder the Barbier reaction under sonication but our tests with wet THF gave no reaction products, so it was necessary to avoid cautiously the presence of water with azines.

Conclusion

To our knowledge, it is the first time that the Barbier reaction has been studied in these heterocyclic series. This

**Scheme 3.** Tests on pyrimidines.**Table 3.** Yields with pyrimidines

| Entry | Compound | Electrophile | Product | Yield (%) |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | PhCHO | 2 | 55 |
| 2 | 1 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 11 | 22 |
| 3 | 1 | PhSSPh | 12 | 25 |
| 4 | 13 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 14 | 48 |
| 5 | 13 | PhSSPh | 15 | 30 |
| 6 | 16 | PhCHO | 17 | 52 |
| 7 | 16 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 18 | 48 |
| 8 | 16 | PhSSPh | 19 | 39 |

**Scheme 4.** Tests on pyridazines and a cinnoline.**Table 4.** Yields with pyridazines and a cinnoline

| Entry | Compound | Electrophile | Product | Yield (%) |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 20 | PhCHO | 21 | 72 |
| 2 | 20 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 22 | 58 |
| 3 | 20 | PhSSPh | 23 | 49 |
| 4 | 24 | PhCHO | 25 | 65 |
| 5 | 24 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | 26 | 50 |
| 6 | 24 | PhSSPh | 27 | 38 |
| 7 | 28 | PhCHO | 29 | 64 |
| 8 | 28 | C ₅ H ₁₁ CHO | – | – |
| 9 | 28 | PhSSPh | 30 | 35 |

(3-Chloropyrazin-2-yl)phenylmethanol (8). Barbier reaction with **7** (1.0 mmol, 240.5 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 154 mg (70%) of **8** as a white solid. Product previously described in reference.⁷

1-(3-Chloropyrazin-2-yl)hexan-1-ol (9). Barbier reaction with **7** (1.0 mmol, 240.5 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 126 mg (60%) of **9** as a colorless oil. Product previously described in reference.⁷

2-(Phenylsulfanyl)-3-chloropyrazine (10). Barbier reaction with **7** (1.0 mmol, 240.5 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 74 mg (33%) of **10** as a beige solid. Product previously described in reference¹⁷ (patent); mp 102°C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.08 (d, *J*=2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J*=2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (m, 2H, H_{Ph}), 7.40 (m, 3H, H_{Ph}); ir: ν 3470, 3060, 2928, 1477, 1440, 1337, 1322, 1136, 1123, 1050, 1023, 860, 747, 689 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₇ClN₂S (222.70): C, 53.93; H, 3.17; N, 12.58. Found: C, 54.08; H, 3.12; N, 12.69.

1-(Pyrimidin-5-yl)hexan-1-ol (11). Barbier reaction with **1** (1.0 mmol, 159 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 40 mg (22%) of **11** as a yellow oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 9.00 (s, 1H, H₂); 8.46 (s, 2H, H₄, H₆); 3.95 (m, 1H, CH); 3.00 (s, 1H, OH); 1.25 (m, 6H, 4×CH₂); 0.90 (m, 3H, CH₃); ir: ν 3058, 2925, 2855, 1727, 1582, 1540, 1476, 1440, 1399, 1025, 744, 720, 691 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₆N₂O (180.25): C, 66.64; H, 8.95; N, 15.54. Found: C, 66.67; H, 8.81; N, 15.63.

5-(Phenylsulfanyl)pyrimidine (12). Barbier reaction with **1** (1.0 mmol, 159 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 47 mg (25%) of **12** as a yellow oil. Product previously described in reference.¹⁸

1-(4-Methoxypyrimidin-2-yl)hexan-1-ol (14). Barbier reaction with **13** (1.0 mmol, 236 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 100 mg (48%) of **14** as a white oil. Product previously described in reference.⁷

4-Methoxy-2-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrimidine (15). Barbier reaction with **13** (1.0 mmol, 236 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 65 mg (30%) of **15** as a yellow oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (d, *J*=5.5 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.54 (m, 2H, H_{Ph}), 7.32 (m, 3H, H_{Ph}), 6.30 (d, *J*=5.5 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.66 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 172.2; 169.4; 157.8; 135.5; 130.1; 129.5; 129.3; 108.3; 54.0; ir: ν 3440, 3060, 2994, 2927, 2854, 1726, 1555, 1470, 1441, 1407,

1322, 1237, 1178, 1022, 903, 822, 748, 690 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₀N₂OS (218.28): C, 60.53; H, 4.62; N, 12.83. Found: C, 60.40; H, 4.48; N, 12.79.

[2-(Methylsulfanyl)pyrimidin-4-yl]phenylmethanol (17). Barbier reaction with **16** (1.0 mmol, 252 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 121 mg (52%) of **17** as a yellow solid. Product previously described in reference.⁷

1-[2-(Methylsulfanyl)pyrimidin-4-yl]hexan-1-ol (18). Barbier reaction with **16** (1.0 mmol, 252 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 108 mg (48%) of **18** as colorless oil. Product previously described in reference.⁷

2-(Methylsulfanyl)-4-(phenylsulfanyl)pyrimidine (19). Barbier reaction with **16** (1.0 mmol, 252 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 79 mg (39%) of **19** as a yellow oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (d, *J*=4.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.49 (m, 2H, H_{Ph}), 7.38 (m, 3H, H_{Ph}), 6.36 (d, *J*=4.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 2.30 (s, 3H, SCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 171.6; 171.0; 154.5; 134.9; 129.0; 128.7; 127.8; 111.1; 12.9; ir: ν 3057, 3020, 2962, 2925, 1539, 1521, 1476, 1440, 1402, 1337, 1213, 1166, 1023, 812, 749, 691 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₀N₂S (202.28): C, 65.32; H, 4.98; N, 13.85. Found: C, 65.69; H, 5.29; N, 14.17.

(3,6-Dimethoxypyridazin-4-yl)phenylmethanol (21). Barbier reaction with **20** (1.0 mmol, 266 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 178 mg (72%) of **21** as a white solid. Product previously described in reference.⁷

1-(3,6-Dimethoxypyridazin-4-yl)hexan-1-ol (22). Barbier reaction with **20** (1.0 mmol, 266 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 139 mg (58%) of **22** as a yellow oil. Product previously described in reference.⁷

3,6-Dimethoxy-4-(phenylsulfanyl)pyridazine (23). Barbier reaction with **20** (1.0 mmol, 266 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 121 mg (49%) of **23** as an orange oil. Product previously described in reference.⁷

(6-Methoxypyridazin-3-yl)phenylmethanol (25). Barbier reaction with **24** (1.0 mmol, 236 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 140 mg (65%) of **25** as a white solid. Product previously described in reference.¹⁹

1-(6-Methoxypyridazin-3-yl)hexan-1-ol (26). Barbier reaction with **24** (1.0 mmol, 236 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL),

gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 105 mg (50%) of **26** as a yellow oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, $J=9.1$ Hz, 1H, H_6), 6.63 (d, $J=9.1$ Hz, 1H, H_5); 5.05 (m, 1H, CH); 4.01 (s, 3H, OCH_3); 3.55 (br, 1H, OH); 2.24 (m, 2H, CH_2); 1.30 (m, 6H, $3\times\text{CH}_2$); 0.80 (m, 3H, CH_3); ir: ν 3418, 2931, 2860, 1732, 1463, 1394, 1316, 1249, 1176, 1116, 1006 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ (210.28): C, 62.83; H, 8.63; N, 13.32. Found: C, 62.97; H, 8.55; N, 13.40.

6-Methoxy-3-(phenylsulfanyl)pyridazine (27). Barbier reaction with **24** (1.0 mmol, 236 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 83 mg (38%) of **27** as a yellow solid. Product previously described in reference.²⁰

(3-Methoxycinnolin-4-yl)phenylmethanol (29). Barbier reaction with **28** (1.0 mmol, 286 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 170 mg (64%) of **29** as a beige solid. Product previously described in reference.¹⁴

3-Methoxy-4-(phenylsulfanyl)cinnoline (30). Barbier reaction with **28** (1.0 mmol, 286 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 68 mg (24%) of **30** as a red solid, mp 98°C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.29 (m, 1H); 8.14 (m, 1H); 7.52 (m, 2H); 7.09 (s, 5H, H_{Ph}); 4.15 (s, 3H, OCH_3); ir: ν 3054, 2991, 2952, 2895, 1580, 1550, 1524, 1460, 1324, 1239, 1110, 751, 691 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{OS}$ (284.38): C, 67.58; H, 5.67; N, 9.85. Found: C, 67.79; H, 5.81; N, 9.89.

(Pyridin-2-yl)phenylmethanol (33). Barbier reaction with **31** (1.0 mmol, 158 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 107 mg (58%) of **33** as a yellow solid. Product previously described in reference.²¹

1-(Pyridin-2-yl)hexan-1-ol (34). Barbier reaction with **31** (1.0 mmol, 158 mg) according to the general procedure with hexanal (1.1 mmol, 0.13 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 92 mg (51%) of **34** as a yellow oil. Product previously described in reference.²¹

2-(Phenylsulfanyl)pyridine (35). Barbier reaction with **31** (1.0 mmol, 158 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 39 mg (21%) of **35** as a yellow oil. Product previously described in reference.¹⁸

(Pyridin-3-yl)phenylmethanol (37). Barbier reaction with **36** (1.0 mmol, 158 mg) according to the general procedure with benzaldehyde (1.1 mmol, 0.11 mL), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 100 mg (54%) of **37** as a yellow solid. Product previously described in reference.¹⁵

3-(Phenylsulfanyl)pyridine (38). Barbier reaction with **36** (1.0 mmol, 158 mg) according to the general procedure with diphenyl disulfide (1.1 mmol, 242 mg), gave after purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) 45 mg (24%) of **38** as a yellow oil. Product previously described in reference.¹⁵

All mentioned products had satisfactory analyses.

Acknowledgements

We thank M. Paillot, an undergraduate student, for technical support.

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