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Environmentally friendly TPDS-mediated free radical ring expansion of α -haloalkyl cyclic β -keto esters

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Abstract—Reactivities of tetraphenyldisilane (TPDS), tris(trimethylsilyl)silane, and tributyltin hydride in the radical ring expansion of α-haloalkyl cyclic β-keto esters were examined. Among these reagents, TPDS was found most effective for the preparation of medium-sized cyclic compounds in terms of yields and ring-expansion/reduction selectivity. © 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Recently, free radical reactions have become important in organic synthesis, since functional group conversion of organic compounds under mild reaction conditions is critical for the preparation of natural products and biologically active compounds. Tributyltin hydride and tris(trimethylsilyl)silane³ are well-known reagents for these radical reactions, though the former reagent is highly toxic and the complete removal of the tin species from the reaction products is difficult, while the latter one is a less stable oil under aerobic conditions for storage. Radical cyclization reactions in 5-exo-trig and 6-exo-trig manner are a most powerful and versatile method for the construction of fiveand six-membered cyclic systems.4 However, the direct construction of a medium-sized ring skeleton by radical cyclization is normally not so useful because of poor yields of the cyclization products.⁵ Thus, the construction of these compounds have been carried out by using non-radical methods extensively.6 On the other hand, since their pioneering work on intramolecular alkyl radical addition to a carbonyl group with tributyltin hydride, ⁷ Beckwith⁸ and Dowd⁹ have reported a interesting free-radical ring expansion of α -halomethyl- and α -halopropyl cyclic β-keto esters to one-carbon and three-carbon ring-expanded cyclic keto esters, respectively, in 3-exo-trig and 5-exo-trig manner and subsequent β-cleavage in refluxing benzene solutions of tributyltin hydride in the presence of AIBN. Baldwin has also reported a radical ring expansion of α-(haloalkyl) β-stannylcyclohexanone with tributyltin hydride to form the corresponding ring expanded cyclo-

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alkenones. 10 These methods are efficient for the construction of medium-sized cyclic compounds and the reaction is very attractive and important, since these types of ring expansion are specific radical reactions and may be applicable to a wide range of functional groups of various ring size. However, highly toxic tin species are required for the preparation of these ring-expanded compounds. Therefore, use of radical reactions with organotin reagents cannot be considered in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, even if results of the radical reactions for organic synthesis are excellent and effective. Very recently, treatment of $\alpha\text{-halomethyl}$ $\beta\text{-keto}$ esters with SmI_2 in THF in the presence of an activator such as MeOH, HMPA, NiI2 was reported to give the corresponding one-carbon ring-expanded products in good yields.¹¹ However, this reagent cannot be used for the three-carbon ring expansion reactions and one-carbon extension of acyclic α-halomethyl β-keto esters. As a part of our study on the synthetic application of 1,1,2,2-tetraphenyldisilane (TPDS) to organic synthesis as a radical reagent, 12 we report herein TPDS-mediated radical ring expansion of β-haloalkyl cyclic β-keto esters to form ring-expanded cyclic keto esters through the radical cyclization of the initially formed carbon radicals to the carbonyl group in exo-trig manner, followed by β-cleavage of the

$$Z = CO_{2}R$$

Scheme 1.

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Table 1. Ring expansion of cyclic β -keto ester 1a-i with various radical reagents

Entry	Reagent (equiv.)	Solvent	Yields (%)	
			2a-i	3a-i
1	H ₃ PO ₂ (5.0)	EtOH ^a	ca. 20	ca. 30
2	PhSiH ₃ (1.2)	Tolune ^b	3 ^c	0
3	Ph_2SiH_2 (1.2)	Tolune ^b	47 ^d	Trace
4	Bu_3SnH (1.2)	Tolunea	65	Trace
5	$(TMS)_3SiH (1.2)$	Tolunea	64	Trace
6	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$ (1.2)	Tolunea	66	Trace
7	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$ (1.2)	Tolune ^{a,e}	61	Trace
8	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$ (1.2)	AcOEt ^a	59	Trace
9	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$ (1.2)	AcOEt ^f	3^{g}	20

^a Slow addition of AIBN with a dropping funnel.

resulting bicyclic alkoxy radical intermediate (Scheme 1). The reactivities were compared with those of other typical radical reagents such as tributyltin hydride, tris(trimethylsilyl)silane, etc. under the same conditions.

Table 2. Reactivities of TPDS, (TMS) $_3$ SiH, and Bu $_3$ SnH in ring expansion of cyclic β -keto esters 1

Entry	n	R	X 1	Reagent ^a	Yields (%)	
					2	3
1	1	Me	Br (1a)	Ph ₄ Si ₂ H ₂	66	Trace
2				(TMS) ₃ SiH	64	Trace
3				Bu ₃ SnH	65	Trace
4		Me	I	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$	64	Trace
5				(TMS) ₃ SiH	65	Trace
6				Bu_3SnH	47	22
7	2	Et	Br (1b)	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$	67	Trace
8				(TMS) ₃ SiH	65	Trace
9				Bu ₃ SnH	20	68
10	3	Me	Br (1c)	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$	64	Trace
11				(TMS) ₃ SiH	52	18
12				Bu ₃ SnH	24	63
13	4	Me	Br (1d)	Ph ₄ Si ₂ H ₂	48	Trace
14			. ,	(TMS) ₃ SiH	48	21
15				Bu ₃ SnH	39	45
16	8	Me	I (1e)	Ph ₄ SiH ₂	53	9
17	-		()	(TMS) ₃ SiH	54	28
18				Bu ₃ SnH	15	57
				20,0.111		57

^a Substrate/radical reagent/AIBN=1/1.2/3-5.

Table 3. Reactivities of TPDS, (TMS) $_3$ SiH, and Bu $_3$ SnH in ring expansion of cyclic β -keto esters 1a

Entry	m, 1a	Reagent ^a	Yields (%)	
			2a	3a
1	1 (i)	Ph ₄ Si ₂ H ₂	66	Trace
2		(TMS) ₃ SiH	64	Trace
3		Bu ₃ SnH	65	Trace
4	2 (ii)	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$	0	86
5	3 (iii)	Ph ₄ Si ₂ H ₂	47	25
6		(TMS) ₃ SiH	25	42
7		Bu ₃ SnH	Trace	78
8	4 (iv)	$Ph_4Si_2H_2$	5	60

^a Substrate/radical reagent/AIBN=1/1.2/3-5.

2. Results and discussion

Ring expansion of methyl 1-bromomethyl-2-oxocyclopentanoate with various radical reagents, such as phosphinic acid, phenylsilane, diphenylsilane, tributyltin hydride, tris-(trimethylsilyl)silane, and TPDS, in the presence of AIBN, Et₃B, or peroxide was carried out, and the results are shown in Table 1.

All reactions were carried out by the dropwise addition of a radical initiator to the refluxing solution of cyclic bromoalkyl β -keto esters in the presence of a radical reagent through a dropping funnel. The results suggest that phenylsilane did not work at all (entry 2), and phosphinic acid showed moderate reactivity, though the ratio of ring-expanded compound **2a-i** to the direct reduction product **3a-i** was poor (entry 1).

Surprisingly, diphenylsilane gave the ring-expanded product in moderate yield together with a trace amount of the direct reduction product (entry 3). However, much excess amount of peroxide is required. TPDS, tributyltin hydride, and tris(trimethylsilyl)silane showed almost the same reactivity to give the ring-expanded compound 2a-i in good yields, together with trace amounts of the direct reduction product **3a-i** (entries 4–6) and starting material **1a-i** (\sim 10%). So, here, there is no difference in the reactivity among TPDS, tributyltin hydride, and tris(trimethylsilyl)silane. Moreover, there is no effect of a Lewis acid such as Mg(ClO₄)₂ and Yb(OTf)₃ on the formation of ring-expanded ketones (2a-i, entry 7). The reaction initiated by Et₃B at room temperature markedly reduced the formation of the ring-expanded ketone 2a-i and the starting bromide **1a-i** was mainly recovered (entry 9).

The effect of ring size in the TPDS-mediated ring expansion was examined and the reactivity was compared with those of tris(trimethylsilyl)silane and tributyltin hydride as shown in Table 2. Totally, TPDS gave the ring expansion products

^b Slow addition of benzoyl peroxide with a dropping funnel.

^c Compound **1a-i** was recovered in 81% yield.

^d Compound **1a-i** was recovered in 36% yield.

e Mg(ClO₄)₂ was added.

¹ Et₃B was used as an initiator, and the reaction was carried out at rt.

g Compound 1a-i was recovered in 64% yield.

Table 4. Reactivities of TPDS, $(TMS)_3SiH$, and Bu_3SnH in chain extension of acyclic β -keto esters 4

2 in better yields than those obtained with tributyltin hydride, though it showed almost the same reactivity as that of tris(trimethylsilyl)silane. The effect of the arm size in the bromoalkyl group was studied as shown in Table 3.

Again, the same reactivity of bromomethyl compound **1a-i** was observed in TPDS, tris(trimethylsilyl)silane, and tributyltin hydride (entries 1-3), and these three reagents did not give the two-carbon ring-expanded product at all with compound **1a-ii**; instead, the direct reduction product was formed (entry 4). Reaction of 3-bromopropyl β -keto ester **1a-iii** with TPDS gave a three-carbon ring-expanded product in moderate yield, though the same reactions with tris(trimethylsilyl)silane and tributyltin hydride were not so effective (entries 5-7). These results come from the fact that Si-H bond in tris(trimethylsilyl)silane is 5 kcal/mol stronger than Sn-H bond in tributyltin hydride, and probably Si-H bond in TPDS is slightly stronger than that in tris(trimethylsilyl)silane.³

Chain extension of acyclic bromoalkyl β -keto esters was carried out and the reactivity was compared with those of tris(trimethylsilyl)silane and tributyltin hydride as shown in Table 4. Here again, TPDS showed almost the same reactivity as those with tris(trimethylsilyl)silane, and tributyltin hydride showed poor results (entries 4–6).

3. Conclusion

TPDS and tris(trimethylsilyl)silane generally showed no remarkable difference in their good reactivities towards the radical ring expansion reaction, while the same reaction with tributyltin hydride gave poor yields of ringenlarged products. In view of its stability (stable crystals in air), less toxicity, and easy handling, TPDS is a useful reagent for the preparation of medium-sized ring compounds through the radical ring expansion of α -haloalkyl cyclic β -keto esters.

4. Experimental

4.1. General

 1 H NMR spectra were recorded on 400 and 500 MHz spectrometers, and 13 C NMR spectra were recorded on 100 and 125 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported as ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane (TMS) in δ units. *J*-Values are given in Hz. 3-Nitrobenzyl alcohol was used as the matrix of mass spectra (FAB). Kieselgel 60 F254 was used for TLC, Silica Gel 60 (Kanto Kagaku) was used for column chromatography, and Wakogel B-5F was used for preparative TLC. Solvents were purified and dried by standard techniques.

4.2. General procedure using TPDS with Et₃B

Et₃B in THP (0.6 ml, 1 mol/l) was added into a mixture of α -haloalkyl β -keto ester (0.5 mmol) and TPDS (0.6 mmol) in a solvent (10 ml) under aerobic conditions.

After stirring for 4 h, the same amount of Et₃B was added again and the obtained mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. After the reaction, the solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (5:1).

4.3. General procedure using TPDS with AIBN

AIBN (1.5–2.5 mmol) in toluene (10–15 ml) was added dropwise over 8 h using a dropping funnel to a refluxing solution of α -haloalkyl β -keto ester (0.5 mmol) and TPDS (0.6 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) and the obtained mixture was stirred overnight at the same temperature. After the reaction, the solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (5:1–10:1).

4.4. General procedure using tris(trimethylsilyl)silane and AIBN

AIBN (1.5 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) was added dropwise over 8 h using a dropping funnel to a refluxing solution of α -haloalkyl β -keto ester (0.5 mmol) and (TMS) $_3$ SiH (0.6 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) and the obtained mixture was stirred overnight at the same temperature. The mixture was purified as described in the general procedure using TPDS and AIBN.

4.5. General procedure using tributyltin hydride and AIBN

AIBN (1.5 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) was added dropwise over 8 h using a dropping funnel to a refluxing solution of α -haloalkyl β -keto ester (0.5 mmol) and Bu₃SnH (0.6 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) and the obtained mixture was stirred overnight at the same temperature. The mixture was purified as described in the general procedure using TPDS and AIBN.

4.5.1. Methyl 3-oxocyclohexanoate 2a-i. Oil; IR (neat) 2950, 2870, 1740, 1720 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =3.71 (3H, s), 2.81 (1H, m), 2.56 (2H, d,

^a Substrate/radical reagent/AIBN=1/1.2/3-5.

- J=8.2 Hz), 2.44–2.28 (2H, m), 2.16–2.02 (2H, m), 1.90–1.69 (2H, m); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =209.2 (q), 174.2 (q), 52.1 (p), 43.1 (s), 43.1 (t), 40.2 (s), 27.7 (s), 24.5 (s); MS (EI): m/z 156; HRMS (EI) Found: m/z 156.0789, Calcd for C₈H₁₂O₃: M=156.0786.
- **4.5.2.** Ethyl 3-oxocycloheptanoate 2b. Oil; IR (neat) 2980, 2940, 2860, 1740, 1700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =4.15 (2H, q, J=7.2 Hz), 2.81 (1H, dd, J=11.0, 15.6 Hz), 2.73–2.66 (2H, m), 2.58–2.44 (2H, m), 2.10 (1H, m), 1.98–1.61 (5H, m), 1.26 (3H, t, J=7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =212.2 (q), 174.5 (q), 60.8 (s), 45.5 (s), 43.5 (s), 41.2 (t), 33.2 (s), 28.3 (s), 27.9 (s), 14.1 (p); MS (FAB): m/z 185; HRMS (FAB) Found: m/z 185.1160, Calcd for C₁₀H₁₇O₃: M+H=185.1178.
- **4.5.3. Methyl 3-oxocyclooctanoate 2c.** Oil; IR (neat) 2940, 2860, 1730, 1700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.70 (3H, s), 2.94 (1H, s), 2.94 (1H, m), 2.80 (1H, t, J= 13.2 Hz), 2.42 (2H, m), 2.04–1.63 (8H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =214.5 (q), 174.8 (q), 51.9 (p), 42.9 (s), 42.8 (s), 42.7 (t), 29.7 (s), 27.2 (s), 24.8 (s) 23.2 (s); MS (EI): m/z 184; HRMS (EI) Found: m/z 184.1085, Calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O₃: M=184.1099.
- **4.5.4. Methyl 3-oxocyclononanoate 2d.** Oil; IR (neat) 2930, 2870, 1740, 1700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =3.66 (3H, s), 3.02 (1H, m), 2.85 (1H, dd, J=11.3, 13.8 Hz), 2.63 (1H, dd, J=2.7, 13.8 Hz), 2.49 (2H, m), 1.96–1.32 (10H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =215.0 (q), 175.7 (q), 52.0 (p), 44.3 (s), 43.7 (s), 41.2 (t), 29.2 (s), 25.6 (s), 25.5 (s), 24.1 (s), 22.9 (s); MS (EI): m/z 198; HRMS (EI) Found: m/z 198.1064, Calcd for $C_{11}H_{18}O_3$: M=198.2629.
- **4.5.5. Methyl 3-oxocyclotridecanoate 2e.** Oil; IR (neat) 2930, 2860, 1740, 1710 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =3.69 (3H, s), 2.98 (1H, m), 2.85 (1H, dd, J=8.9, 16.9 Hz), 2.74 (1H, dd, J=3.4, 16.9 Hz), 2.55 (1H, m), 2.35 (1H, m), 1.79–1.11 (18H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =210.2 (q), 175.7 (q), 51.9 (p), 43.5 (s), 42.5 (s), 39.6 (t), 29.5 (s), 26.2 (s), 26.14 (s), 26.11 (s), 25.5 (s), 24.6 (s), 24.3 (s), 23.8 (s), 23.7 (s); MS (EI): m/z 254; HRMS (EI) Found: m/z 254.1863, Calcd for C₁₅H₂₆O₃: M=254.1882.
- **4.5.6. Methyl 5-oxocyclooctanoate 2a-iii.** Oil; IR (neat) 2950, 2860, 1740, 1700 cm^{-1} ; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =3.64 (3H, s), 2.65–2.26 (4H, m), 2.18–1.92 (5H, m), 1.87–1.50 (4H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =210.9 (q), 176.7 (q), 51.6 (p), 41.9 (t), 41.8 (s), 29.9 (s), 24.4 (s); MS (FAB): m/z 185; HRMS (FAB) Found: m/z 185.1167, Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_{3}$: M+1=185.1178.
- **4.5.7. Ethyl 2-methyl 4-oxohexanoate 5-i.** Oil; IR (neat) 2980, 2940, 1730, 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =4.13 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz), 2.55–2.37 (3H, m), 2.58–2.44 (2H, m), 1.25 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz), 1.18 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 1.06 (3H, t, J=7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 209.5 (q), 175.9 (q), 60.6 (s), 45.3 (s), 36.1 (s), 34.8 (t), 17.2 (s), 14.2 (s), 7.7 (s); MS (EI): m/z 172; HRMS (EI) Found: m/z 172.1094, Calcd for $C_9H_{16}O_3$: M=172.1098.
- 4.5.8. Ethyl 2-methyl 6-oxooctanoate 5-iii. Oil; IR (neat)

2980, 2940, 1740, 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =4.13 (2H, q, J=7.0 Hz), 2.47–2.35 (5H, m), 1.70–1.30 (4H, m), 1.26 (3H, t, J=7.0 Hz), 1.15 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 1.05 (3H, t, J=7.3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 211.3 (q), 176.6 (q), 60.2 (s), 42.1 (s), 39.4 (t), 35.8 (s), 33.2 (s), 21.5 (s), 17.0 (p), 14.2 (p), 7.8 (p); MS (EI): m/z 185; HRMS (EI) Found: m/z 200.1412, Calcd for C₁₁H₂₀O₃: M=200.1412.

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