Boron-mediated aldol reactions of a methyl ketone containing a cyclic silicon protecting group

Ellen Christine Polo and Luiz Carlos Dias

Instituto de Química-UNICAMP, P. O. Box 6154, 13084-971, Campinas, SP-Brazil

*ldias@iqm.unicamp.br

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INTRODUCTION

We have showed that aldol reactions involving boron enolates of methyl ketone containing a trans acetonide 1 with achiral aldehydes provided the corresponding aldol adducts with moderate to good levels of diastereoselectivity, favoring the 1,5-anti adduct.\(^1\)

Scheme 1. Aldol reactions of methyl ketone 1.

In this work we report the use of the boron enolate generated from methyl ketone 8, containing a cyclic silicon protecting group in a trans relationship in aldol reactions with achiral aldehydes. Our intention is to evaluate the steric and electronic effect of the silicon protecting group in the selectivity of the reactions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Treatment of 4 with PMB-acetimide followed by oxidation with PCC resulted in 5 (65%, 2 steps). The aldol reaction between the boron enolate of methyl ketone 5 and aldehyde 2a gave aldol adduct 6 (90%, \(dr > 95.05\)). Treatment of 6 with Me\(_2\)NHBO(OAc)\(_3\) (89%, \(dr > 95.05\)) followed by treatment with DTBS ditriflate resulted in 7 (97%). The compound 7 was treated with DDQ (94%) followed by Swern oxidation providing methyl ketone 8 (97%) (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2. Preparation of methyl ketone 8.

The aldol reactions of the methyl ketone 8 with aldehydes 2a-g were investigated using \((c\text{-Hex})\text{B}Cl\) and Et\(_3\)N in Et\(_2\)O, providing the 1,5-anti and 1,5-syn aldol adducts (10a-g and 11a-g) (Scheme 3, Table 1).

Scheme 3. Aldol reactions of methyl ketone 8.

Table 1. Aldol reactions of methyl ketone 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ent</th>
<th>Aldehyde (R)</th>
<th>(dr^a)</th>
<th>Yield (1,5-anti:1,5-syn) (%)(^b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Et (2a)</td>
<td>88:12</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>i-Pr (2b)</td>
<td>83:17</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>t-Bu (2c)</td>
<td>72:28</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ph (2d)</td>
<td>66:34</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>p-NO(_2)C(_6)H(_4) (2e)</td>
<td>64:36</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>p-OMeC(_6)H(_4) (2f)</td>
<td>67:33</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Ratio determined by \(^1\)H and \(^13\)C NMR analysis of the diastereoisomeric mixture of aldol adducts. \(^b\) Isolated yields of both anti and syn isomers after SiO\(_2\) gel flash column chromatography.

These results shown that aldol reactions involving the methyl ketone 8 provided the corresponding aldol adduct with moderate to good levels of diastereoselectivity favoring the 1,5-anti diastereoisomer. The relative stereochemistry of aldol adducts 10a-f was determined using the Kishi/Kobayashi method.\(^2\)

CONCLUSION

We have demonstrated that the proper choice of protecting group is very important, as better selectivities were observed for less hindered aldehydes in the case of methyl ketone 8 (entries 1-3).

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