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An Intermolecular Hydroamination of Allenamides Catalysed by Cationic Au(I) Salts

Anthony W. Hill, Mark R. J. Elsegood and Marc C. Kimber*
Department of Chemistry, Loughborough University
Leicester, LE11 3TU, UK

M.C.Kimber@lboro.ac.uk

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An intermolecular hydroamination of allenamides has been achieved under mild Au(I) catalysis conditions delivering allylamo E-enamides stereoselectively and in high yield. The reaction is made possible via a convenient method for conjugated N-acyliminium formation.

The addition of the N-H bond over alkene and alkylene π-systems, the hydroamination transformation, represents a powerful method for the introduction of the amine functionality.1 Such transformations give access to a range of valuable nitrogen containing building blocks such as amines, imines and enamines. Within this group of reactions the intermolecular hydroamination of allenes has become increasingly important due to the regiochemical factors in such transformations. Allenes (1) can undergo either Markovnikov or anti-Markovnikov addition, giving rise to allylamines (2a) or imines (2b) (Scheme 1). This first group of substrates, allylamines, are vital synthetic building blocks since they are contained within a number of important biological systems and are key intermediates in organic synthesis.

A number of transition metal approaches towards the hydroamination of allenes have been reported, including the use of Zr (anti-Markovnikov), Hg (Markovnikov), Pt (Markovnikov) and Pd (Markovnikov) salts.2 Additional to these transition metals, Au salts have proved to particularly attractive in hydroamination reactions due to their low toxicity and increased stability to moisture and air.4 Consequently, a number of groups have utilised Au salts in these transformation to great effect.1b,c

SCHEME 1. The hydroamination of allenes.

Recently, we reported4 the first intermolecular hydroarylation of allenamides5 with electron rich aromatics using an Au(I) catalyst to give the corresponding enamides. Enamides4 are a class substrates that have become particularly topical due to their use in the construction of heterocycles, chiral amines and their presence in a number of natural product frameworks.6 This transformation was high yielding.


for most substrates and gave exclusively the E-enamide.

Importantly, unlike many of the methods for enamine preparation, the reaction required no exclusion of air and moisture and the reaction was extremely facile.

While there are reported methods for the Au catalysed intermolecular hydroamination of allenes to give allyl amines within the literature, methods for the intermolecular hydroamination of allenamides remains untouched to our knowledge. Whereas the hydroamination of allenes delivers synthetically useful allylamines, the intermolecular Markovnikov addition of an N-H bond over an allenamide 3 would deliver an allylamino enamide 4, a substrate that would contain both an allyl amine and an enamide within the one synthetic framework (Scheme 2). Therefore, in this communication we would like to share our results of the first intermolecular hydroamination of allenamides using aniline derivatives under our Au(I) catalytic conditions.

**Scheme 2.** The proposed hydroamination of allenamides.

The allenamides used for this study are shown below in Scheme 3. Cyclic allenamides 5a and 5b were synthesised using an adapted method of Heaney, and the acyclic allenamide 7 was synthesised via initial amide formation followed by base catalysed rearrangement.

Our starting point would be the conditions used for our hydroarylation protocol. Therefore a solution of allenamide 5a (1.00 equiv.) and aniline 8a (1.05 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ was treated with a catalytic amount (5 mol%) of cationic Au(I)PPh₃OTf generated from AuClPPh₃ and AgOTf at room temperature (Scheme 4). To our delight the hydroaminated product 9a was isolated in 86% yield after chromatography. The enamide was obtained exclusively as the E-isomer, and the addition of the N-H bond to the activated allenamide gave the Markovnikov product.

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giving the chiral enamides 10a and 10b, respectively. No epimerization was observed, but slightly reduced yields as compared to the achiral allenamide 5a was seen (entries 1 and 2). The acyclic allenamide 7 also underwent hydroamination with anilines 8f and 8g. A crude 1H NMR of enamides 11a and 11b indicated full conversion to the desired products, however the isolated yields were modest at best and we have attributed this to product degradation during purification.

A mechanism rationale for this tranformation is outlined in Scheme 5.

**TABLE 1.** Substrate scope for the Au(I) catalysed hydroamination of allenamide 5a.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Substrate</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Yield [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>9b</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>9c</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>9d</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>9e</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>9f</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>9g</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>H2N</td>
<td>8h</td>
<td>No reaction 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MeHN</td>
<td>9i</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See experimental section for procedure; † data for all new compounds is contained within the supplementary information; ‡ Isolated yields

The hydroamination reaction was also performed with chiral and acyclic allenamides and the results are shown below in Table 2.

**TABLE 2.** Variation of the allenamide in the Au(I) catalysed hydroamination reaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Substrate</th>
<th>Aniline</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Yield [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>8a</td>
<td>10a</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>8f</td>
<td>10b</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8f</td>
<td>11a</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8g</td>
<td>11b</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See experimental section for procedure; † data for all new compounds is contained within the supplementary information; ‡ Isolated yields

Chiral allenamide 5b successfully underwent hydroamination with both aniline 8a and 2-iodoaniline 8f

We believe that the cationic Au(I) salt activates the allenamide 12 to give an conjugated N-acyl iminium intermediate species 14. This can undergo either 1,2- or 2,3-addition by a suitable nucleophile. In the case at hand the aniline derivatives undergo 1,2-addition giving 15 which can then undergo protodemallation to yield the observed E-enamide 16.

In summary, we have disclosed an Au(I) catalysed protocol for the intermolecular hydroamination of allenamides. The reaction is facile, high yielding and stereoselectively gives the E-enamide products. The products of this reaction, allylamino enamides, have the potential to be valuable building blocks in organic synthesis since they contain two vital functionalities, allyl amines and enamides, within one framework. The chemistry of this building block, the mechanistic insights and the addition of other nucleophilic species to the Au activated conjugated N-acyl iminium species are currently being studied in our group and will be reported on in due course.

**Experimental section**

Representative hydroamination method with allenamide 5a. To a solution of the allenamide 5a (63 mg, 1.05 equiv., 0.50 mmol) in dichloromethane (3.00 mL) at room temperature was added the aniline derivative (1.05 equiv.) followed by AuPPh3OTf (from AuClPPh3 [12.40 mg, 5.00 mol%, 0.025 mmol] and AgOTf [6.60 mg, 5 mol%, 0.025 mmol]) and the resultant solution stirred for up to 1h at room temperature (monitored by tlc). The resultant reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of Celite® and the crude mixture purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether mixture as indicated). 9a was obtained

(14) Full experimental details and compound data are available in the supporting information.
as a pale yellow solid (R_f = 0.42) (93 mg, 86 %, MP 89 – 91 ºC); [Found (ES): MNa^+, C_{13}H_{14}N_2O_2, 241.0944, requires MNa^+ 241.0953]; IR (solution, CHCl_3) 3441, 3014, 1755, 1619, 1503, 1413, 1310, 1238, 1206 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 7.18 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (dt, J = 6.4, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J = 8.0, 9.2 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (bs, 1H), 3.69 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (t, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 4.27 – 4.17 (m, 3H), 3.87 – 3.83 (m, 2H), 3.21 – 3.18 (m, 1H), 2.81 – 2.76 (m, 1H); ^13C NMR (100 MHz;CDCl_3) δ 155.8(C), 147.8(C), 135.2(C), 129.3(CH), 129.0(CH), 127.4(CH), 125.3(CH), 117.9(CH), 113.2(CH), 108.3(CH), 66.7(CH), 55.0(CH), 44.2(CH), 36.3(CH).

Representative hydroamination method with allenamide 5b. To a solution of the allenamide 5b (50 mg, 1.00 equiv., 0.232 mmol) in dichloromethane (3.00 mL) at room temperature was added the aniline derivative (1.05 equiv.) followed by AuPPh_3OTf (from AuClPPh_3 [5.80 mg, 5.00 mol%, 0.012 mmol] and AgOTf [3.00 mg, 5 mol%, 0.012 mmol]) and the resultant solution stirred for up to 1h at room temperature (monitored by tlc). The resultant reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of Celite® and the crude mixture purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether mixture as indicated). 11a was obtained as a yellow oil (R_f = 0.35) (52 mg, 46 %); [Found (ES): MNa^+, C_{17}H_{19}N_2O, found 331.4150, requires MNa^+ 331.4142]; IR (solution, CHCl_3) 3441, 3011, 1638, 1590, 1506, 1389, 1069 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl_3) (mixture of rotamers) δ 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (bs, 1H), 6.50 (bs, 1H), 6.48 – 6.44 (m, 1H), 5.16 (bs, 1H), 4.17 (bs, 1H), 3.77 – 3.75 (m, 2H), 3.27 (bs, 3H); ^13C NMR (100 MHz;CDCl_3) (mixture of rotamers) δ 170.9(C), 146.4(C), 139.1(CH), 135.7(C), 133.0(CH), 129.4(CH), 128.7(CH), 128.0(CH), 119.0(CH), 110.8(CH), 105.7(CH), 85.7(C), 44.1(CH), 30.4(CH).

Acknowledgments. The author thanks Loughborough University for financial support.

Supporting Information Available. Experimental procedures, ^1H and ^13C NMR spectra, characterization for 9a-9l, 10a, b, 11a,b and the crystallographic data for 9a. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.