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α -Silicon effect assisted Curtin—Hammett allylation using allylcopper reagents derived from 1,3-dienylsilanes†

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Cu-catalyzed stereoselective synthesis of (E)- δ -silyl-anti-homoallylic alcohols from 1,3-dienylsilane was developed. Mechanistic studies revealed that the borocupration of dienylsilane proceeded through a 1,2-addition pathway to give an allylcopper intermediate with Cu distal to the silyl group. However, the subsequent aldehyde allylation proceeded *via* Curtin–Hammett control to give (E)- δ -silyl-anti-homoallylic alcohols with high diastereoselectivities. This method was applied to the synthesis of the C_{1-9} fragment of a polyketide natural product, mycinolide IV.

Introduction

Stereoselective transformation of carbon–carbon multiple bonds catalyzed by transition-metal complexes is a powerful approach to generate molecular complexity from structurally simple π -bonds.¹ In particular, reactions employing 1,3-conjugated dienes are attractive because of multiple potential reaction pathways that can be involved in these processes. By proper selection of the catalyst/ligand combination, distinct products can be generated with high selectivities from these reactions.² Such processes are valuable because they can often form several chemical bonds, generate several stereocenters, and provide highly useful intermediates for chemical synthesis. Over the past several decades, significant advances in stereoselective transformation of 1,3-conjugated dienes,³-7 enynes and allenes as well have been achieved,³ and many highly innovative strategies have been developed.

Recently, transition-metal catalyzed reactions of 1,3-conjugated dienes with carbonyl compounds have emerged as an important method to synthesize alcohol products. 9-11 Synthetically valuable homoallylic alcohols in particular 12 can be produced from 1,3-conjugated dienes with high stereoselectivities. 10 The Krische group demonstrated that allyl-Ru intermediates, which can be catalytically generated from 1,3-butadiene, reacted with aldehydes to furnish homoallylic alcohols with high enantiopurities. 10 Ni-catalyzed borylative 1,3-diene-aldehyde coupling, developed by the Morken group, proceeds through a different mechanism to produce homoallylic alcohols with high diastereoselectivities. 11 By contrast, Cu-catalyzed reactions using 1,3-conjugated dienes and

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carbonyl compounds received much less attention. Liao and co-workers reported a three-component coupling of 1,3-buta-diene, B_2pin_2 and imines to generate syn-homoallylic amines. Liao The Yu group recently showed a Cu-catalyzed reductive hydroxymethylation of 1,3-dienes with CO_2 and silane. Liao And Cu-catalyzed enantioselective reductive coupling of ketones with 2-azadienes and dienes was disclosed by Malcolmson and Buchwald. Liac, d

While 1,3-butadiene and aryl-substituted 1,3-butadiene were employed in these studies, we were intrigued whether 1,3dienylsilanes can be used to produce silyl substituted homoallylic alcohols. With our continuing interest in carbonyl allylation chemistry,14 we herein report a Cu-catalyzed stereoselective synthesis of (E)- δ -silyl-*anti*-homoallylic alcohols from B₂pin₂, aldehydes and 1,3-dienylsilanes. A notable feature of this method is that the homoallylic alcohol products obtained from the reactions contain a stereochemically defined 1,3-diol unit, and an E-vinyl silane group that is amenable to a variety of subsequent transformations. Mechanistic studies revealed that the reaction proceeded through 1,2-borocupration of the terminal alkene unit to generate an allylcopper intermediate, with Cu residing distal to the silyl group. Subsequent aldehyde allylation occurred under Curtin-Hammett control to give homoallylic alcohol products with high selectivities.

Results and discussion

Inspired by recent studies on Cu–B addition to carbon–carbon multiple bonds¹⁵ and allylcopper chemistry,^{16–18} we envisioned a Cu-catalyzed reaction of dienylsilane, B_2pin_2 and an aldehyde to synthesize δ -silyl-homoallylic alcohols. As shown in Scheme 1, we anticipated that *in situ* generated, monodentate ligand-bound Cu–Bpin species would undergo 1,4-borocupration of dienylsilane **1a** to form an allylcopper intermediate (Z)-2 first. It is conceivable that the kinetic product (Z)-2 could undergo

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[Cu], ligand, base RCHO `SiMe₂Ph B₂pin₂, RCHO via TS-1 1a (Z)-2O[Cu-L] H_2O_2 SiMe₂Ph NaOH

Proposed approach to (*E*)-syn- δ -silyl homoallylic alcohols. Scheme 1

reversible 1,3-metalloshifts to give an (E)-isomer that is thermodynamically more stable. However, we surmised that such 1,3-metalloshifts might be slow owing to the electronic stabilization provided by the neighbouring -SiMe₂Ph group (silicon αanion effect). 19 Subsequent nucleophilic addition of the allyl-Cu intermediate (Z)-2 to aldehyde substrates^{17,18} should proceed through the well-established Zimmerman-Traxler transition state²⁰ (**TS-1**, Scheme 1) to produce (*E*)- δ -silyl-*syn*-homoallylic alcohol products 4 upon oxidative workup. The competing transition state for the allyl addition step, TS-2, which would lead to the formation of a (*Z*)-olefin isomer, suffers from a severe A1,3 allylic strain (shown in red in TS-2)21 and therefore is disfavoured. Consequently, the formation of syn-homoallylic alcohols 4 was anticipated from this reaction sequence.

To implement the proposed strategy, we initiated our studies to identify suitable conditions for the stereoselective reaction of dienylsilane 1a, B₂pin₂ and benzaldehyde (Table 1). The initial experiments were conducted in the presence of 10 mol% CuCl and a ligand, 1.0 equiv. of dienylsilane 1a, 1.0 equiv. of a base, 1.1 equiv. of B₂pin₂ and 1.2 equiv. of benzaldehyde in THF at ambient temperature. Surprisingly, when a monodentate NHC ligand IPr·HCl was utilized with NaOt-Bu as the base, the reaction did not produce any detectable amount of the product (entry 1, Table 1). The reaction with IMes·HCl as the ligand and NaOt-Bu as the base, however, generated a 6:1 mixture of 5a and 4a in 21% yield (entry 2). In contrast to the anticipated syn relative configuration, the major product 5a is an anti-isomer as determined by coupling constant analysis of the corresponding acetonide derivative (please see the ESI† for details). The reaction with SICy·HCl as the ligand precursor gave inferior results (entry 3). Next, reactions with a bidentate phosphor ligand were conducted. The reaction with dppbz as the ligand produced a 3:1 mixture of 5a and 4a in 32% yield (entry 4). The diastereoselectivity was improved to 10:1 when Xantphos was utilized (entry 5). A brief evaluation of the base such as LiOt-Bu or KOt-Bu showed either a lower yield or selectivity (entries 6 and 7). While modification of the base was not fruitful, the yield of reaction was improved to 77% at the expense of diastereoselectivity with toluene as the solvent (entry 8). The reaction did not occur in the absence of any base or ligand (entries 9 and 10). Gratifyingly, we discovered that when Cu(OMe)2 was

Table 1 Evaluation of the reaction conditions^a

Entry	Ligand	Base	$Anti: syn^b$	Yield $(4a + 5a)^c$ (%)
1	IPr·HCl	NaOt-Bu	N.D.	N.R.
2	IMes·HCl	NaOt-Bu	6:1	21
3	SICy·HCl	NaOt-Bu	2:1	19
4	dppbz	NaOt-Bu	3:1	32
5	Xantphos	NaOt-Bu	10:1	40
6	Xantphos	LiOt-Bu	10:1	26
7	Xantphos	KOt-Bu	7:1	61
8^d	Xantphos	NaOt-Bu	6:1	77
9	No ligand	NaOt-Bu	N.D.	N.R.
10	Xantphos	No base	N.D.	N.R.
11^e	Xantphos	No base	14:1	87
12^e	No ligand	No base	N.D.	N.R.

^a Reaction conditions: dienylsilane 1a (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), CuCl (10 mol%), ligand (10 mol%), base (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), B₂pin₂ (0.11 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), benzaldehyde (0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), and THF (0.3 mL); rt, 12 h. b The *anti/syn* and E/Z ratios were determined by 1H NMR analysis of the crude reaction products. c Yields of isolated products are listed. ^d The reaction was conducted in toluene. Cu(OMe)₂ (10 mol%) was used as the catalyst.

employed as the catalyst in lieu of CuCl, the reaction provided a 14:1 mixture of 5a and 4a in 87% yield without the addition of any base (entry 11).22 Again, the presence of the xantphos ligand is crucial; the reaction in the absence of xantphos failed to provide any product with Cu(OMe)₂ as the catalyst, which suggests that the ligand-bound Cu-complex is the active catalyst for this reaction (entry 12).

The scope of the aldehyde that participated in the reactions with dienylsilane 1a is summarized in Table 2. In general, the reaction worked well with a variety of aldehydes. For example, aromatic aldehydes with substitution at the para-position regardless of the electronic properties reacted to give products **5a-f** in 79–92% yields with 10–20:1 anti/syn ratios. Reactions with aromatic aldehydes substituted at the meta- or ortho-position proceeded to provide alcohols 5g-j in 62-88% yields with 12-20:1 diastereoselectivities. Reactions with heteroaromatic aldehydes proceeded smoothly to deliver diols 5k-m in 70-88% yields with 9-18:1 diastereoselectivities. Finally, aliphatic aldehydes participated in the reaction as well to give products **5n-o** in 61–75% yields with 10-20:1 anti/syn ratios. The olefin geometry of alcohols 5 was assigned as E based on ¹H NMR analysis of the coupling constant of olefinic protons.

To probe whether the size of the silyl group of 1,3-diene has any impact on the stereochemical outcomes of the reaction, dienylsilanes **1b-d** substituted with a different sized silyl group were synthesized, and reactions with these dienylsilanes under

Table 2 Scope of aldehyde for reactions with dienylsilane $1a^{a,b,c}$

^a Reaction conditions: diene 1a (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), Cu(OMe)₂ (10 mol%), Xantphos (10 mol%), B₂pin₂ (0.11 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), aldehyde (0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), and THF (0.3 mL); rt, 12–48 h. ^b Diastereoselectivities were determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction products. ^c Yields of isolated products are listed. ^d Reactions were conducted at 0 °C.

the developed conditions were conducted. As shown in Table 3, the reaction of less sterically demanding trimethylsilyl substituted 1,3-diene **1b** with benzaldehyde under standard conditions afforded the diol product **5p** in 68% yield with 10:1

Table 3 Reactions with dienylsilanes 1b-d

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Cu(OMe)}_2 \text{ (10 mol \%)} \\ \text{Xantphos (10 mol \%)} \\ \text{B}_2 \text{pin}_2 \text{ (1.1 equiv)} \\ \hline \text{RCHO, THF, rt} \\ \text{then H}_2 \text{O}_2, \text{NaOH} \\ \hline \\ \text{5p, 68\%, } \text{anti:syn} = 10:1 \\ \hline \text{5q, 86\%, } \text{anti:syn} = 12:1 \\ \hline \text{OH} \\ \hline \text{5r, 91\%, } \text{anti:syn} = 2:1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

anti/syn selectivity. Diphenylmethylsilyl substituted 1,3-diene 1c also reacted to generate product 5q in 86% yield with 12 : 1 anti/syn selectivity. The reaction of benzaldehyde with a much more sterically demanding -SiPh₂^tBu substituted 1,3-diene 1d under standard conditions provided diol 5r as a 2 : 1 mixture of anti and syn isomers in 91% combined yield, with the anti adduct as the major product. In all cases, the formation of any isomer with Z-olefin geometry was not observed. Overall, the results indicate that the size of the silyl group of 1,3-diene does affect the anti/syn selectivity of the reaction, particularly in the case of the bulky SiPh₂^tBu group substituted 1,3-diene 1d.

It has been well-established that the addition of allyl copper species to aldehyde proceeded by way of a 6-membered, chairlike transition state.16,20 Therefore, the anti relative stereochemistry of homoallylic alcohols 5 suggests that the dominant reaction pathway of aldehyde addition is through the allylcopper intermediate (E)-2 (Scheme 2). The reaction of aldehyde with isomer (Z)-2 is only a minor pathway. As shown in Scheme 2, the minor reaction pathway involves the addition of (Z)-2 to an aldehyde via TS-1 to give the syn-isomer 4 because the competing transition state TS-2 suffers from a severe A1,3 allylic strain (shown in red in TS-2).21 Therefore, the formation of the (Z)-homoallylic alcohol product I was disfavoured, and only the syn-adduct 4 was formed in this minor reaction pathway. On the other hand, the addition of (E)-2 to the aldehyde proceeded through a transition state TS-3 to deliver alcohol 5 as the product in the major reaction pathway. It is worth noting that, although the competing transition state TS-4 lacks A^{1,3} allylic strains, the reaction of (E)-2 with an aldehyde did not proceed through TS-4 with pseudo axial placement of the -SiMe₂Ph group in the transition state (shown in light blue in TS-4) to provide product II with Z-olefin geometry (alcohol II was not detected from the reaction). Instead, -SiMe₂Ph was oriented in the pseudo equatorial position in TS-3 to give product 5 with Eolefin geometry. Based on the studies of stereoelectronic effects in allylboration chemistry conducted by Hoffmann, $\sigma-\pi^*$ delocalization between the σ-orbital of the C-Si single bond and the π^* -orbital of the olefin unit in TS-3 is presumably responsible for the observed *E*-alkene stereoselectivity in product 5. In

50, 61%, anti:syn = 20:1d

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Cu(OMe)₂ (10 mol %) Xantphos (10 mol %) B₂Pin₂ (1.1 equiv) SiMe RCHO, THF, rt 1a then H₂O₂, NaOH 5 [Cu] [Cu] (Z)-2(E)-2minor reaction major reaction **BCHO RCHO** pathway pathway SiMesPh [ox] TS-3 SiMe₂Ph [xn]

Scheme 2 Transition state analysis.

I (disfavored)

addition to the stereoelectronic effect, the large $-SiMe_2Ph$ group occupying a pseudo equatorial position in the transition state TS-3 could also make TS-3 more favourable than TS-4.

II (disfavored)

Although the data indicate that the dominant reaction pathway of aldehyde addition is through the allylcopper intermediate (*E*)-2 (Scheme 2), it is not clear whether allylcopper (*E*)-2 was generated as the major product from the addition of Xantphos-ligated Cu-Bpin species to dienylsilane 1a. To gain mechanistic insight into this process, stoichiometric reaction studies with dienylsilane 1a were conducted. As shown in the top panel of Scheme 3, 1 equiv. of Cu(OMe)2, Xantphos (1 equiv.), dienylsilane 1a (1 equiv.), and B₂pin₂ (1.5 equiv.) were stirred at ambient temperature, and the reaction progress was monitored by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy until dienylsilane **1a** was completely consumed. Surprisingly, we only observed one set of two olefinic proton signals (dd, J = 18.7 Hz and d, J = 18.7 Hz), which corresponds to a characteristic vinylsilane group with a methine group adjacent to one vinyl proton. Proton signals corresponding to either (E)-2 or (Z)-2 were not detected. The data indicate that the allylcopper species generated from the initial Cu-Bpin addition to diene 1a should be a 1,2-borocupration adduct, 6 or 7 (Scheme 3a).

To determine which 1,2-addition product, 6 or 7, was generated from the reaction, protonation of the intermediate obtained from stoichiometric borocupration of diene 1a was performed. As shown in Scheme 3a, protonation of the intermediate formed *via* the stoichiometric reaction did not produce any detectable amount of the boronate intermediate 8, which

a. stoichiometric reaction studies:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Cu}(\text{OMe})_2 \text{ (1 equiv)} \\ \text{Xantphos (1 equiv)} \\ \text{B}_2\text{pin}_2 \text{ (1.5 equiv)} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Bpin} \\ \text{Xantphos-Cu} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Bpin} \\ \text{X} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Bpin} \\ \text{Xantphos-Cu} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Bpin} \\ \text{X} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Protonation} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Bpin} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \\ \text{D. protoboration under stoichiometric reaction conditions:} \\ \text{PinB} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \\ \text{C. protoboration under catalytic conditions:} \\ \text{C. protoboration under catalytic conditions:} \\ \text{C. protoboration under catalytic conditions:} \\ \text{B}_2\text{Pin}_2 \text{ (1 equiv), THF} \\ \text{MeOH (1 equiv), rt} \\ \text{9:10 = 1.1:1} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{PinB} \\ \text{9} \\ \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph} \\ \text{10} \\ \end{array} \\ \text{d. deuterium labeling studies:} \\ \text{Cu(OMe})_2 \text{ (10 mol \%)} \\ \text{Xantphos (10 mol \%)} \\ \text{Xantphos (10 mol \%)} \\ \text{Xantphos (10 mol \%)} \\ \text{Yantphos (10 equiv), rt} \\ \text{PinB} \\ \text{Yantphos (10 mol \%)} \\$$

Scheme 3 Mechanistic studies.

would be the product from protonation of intermediate 7. Instead, a 1:1 mixture of (Z)- and (E)-allylboronates 9 and 10 was generated through a S_E2' pathway from allylcopper species 6 (Scheme 3b). A direct S_{E2} protonation product from 6 was not observed. Oxidation studies further corroborated the identity of **9** and **10** as a 1 : 1 mixture of (Z)- and (E)-allylic alcohols, **A** and B, was formed upon oxidation (Scheme 3b). Protoboration studies of dienylsilane 1a under the developed catalytic conditions were also conducted. As shown in Scheme 3c, the reaction of dienylsilane 1a with 1 equiv. of B₂pin₂ and 1 equiv. of MeOH in the presence of 10 mol% Cu(OMe)2 and 10 mol% Xantphos ligand provided a 1.1 : 1 mixture of (Z)- and (E)-allylboronates 9 and 10. Again, the formation of allylboronate 8 was not detected. Finally, deuterium-labeling studies of dienylsilane 1a were conducted with d4-MeOH under the developed catalytic conditions. As shown in Scheme 3d, the reaction of 1a in the presence of 1 equiv. of d^4 -MeOH provided a 1:1 inseparable mixture of (Z)- and (E)-allylboronates 9a and 10a with 70% deuterium incorporation at the positions α to the -SiMe₂Ph group. These data further support the S_E2' protonation pathway of allylcopper intermediate 6 to give allylboronates 9 and 10.

These data clearly demonstrate that the most stable allyl-copper intermediate generated from the initial borocupration is the 1,2-adduct 6 with copper residing distal to the -SiMe₂Ph

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group, not the speculated allylcopper (E)-2 or (Z)-2 as shown in Scheme 2. Presumably the steric interaction between the Cu-Xantphos group and the -SiMe₂Ph group (as in either (E)-2 or (Z)-2 shown in Scheme 2) is too severe to overcome by the stereoelectronic stabilization from the -SiMe₂Ph group. By contrast, the results in Tables 1 and 2 indicate that the major reactive intermediate in the reactions is allylcopper (E)-2, and we were not able to detect any allylation product derived from allylcopper 6.25 Therefore, we conclude that (1) the activation energy for the addition of allylcopper species (E)-2 to aldehyde is much lower than that of allylcopper species 6; (2) a fast equilibrium exists among allylcopper intermediates (E)-2, (Z)-2 and 6 through facile 1,3-metallo shifts; (3) the rate of equilibration among (E)-2, (Z)-2 and 6 is much faster than that of allylation with aldehydes.

Based on the data obtained from these studies, we propose the following reaction pathway. As illustrated in Scheme 4, the in situ generated Xantphos-Cu-Bpin species coordinates to the terminal alkene unit of dienylsilane 1a to form a Cu-olefin complex. Subsequent borylcupration²⁴ of diene 1a occurred in a 1,2-addition pathway to give intermediate 6 as the most stable allylcopper species. Although 6 was generated as the predominant allylcopper species from the initial 1,2-borylcupration, the addition to the aldehyde did not occur via allylcopper 6. Instead, intermediate 6 equilibrates with (E)-2 and (Z)-2 via rapid and reversible 1,3-metalloshifts,25 and subsequent nucleophilic addition to the aldehyde proceeded via the more reactive allylcopper (E)- $2.^{26}$ Therefore, intermediate 6 is funnelled to allylcopper (E)-2 under Curtin-Hammett control²⁷ to generate the anti-adduct 5 from the allylation. Presumably the stereoelectronic benefit from the σ - π * delocalization of the α -silyl group makes TS-3 the lowest energy transition state for the allylation.

The homoallylic alcohol product 5 obtained from the reaction is highly valuable because it contains a stereochemically defined 1,3-diol unit, and a vinyl silane group that is amenable to a variety of subsequent transformations.28 Synthetic applications of this method are shown in Scheme 5.

Scheme 4 Proposed reaction pathway.

Scheme 5 Synthesis of the C_{1-9} fragment of mycinolide IV and derivatization of reaction products

Diol 50 was converted into acetonide 11 in 93% yield. Then acetonide 11 was transformed into vinyl iodide 12 in 80% yield with NIS as the iodination reagent. Pd-catalyzed Stillecoupling of vinyl iodide 12 with (E)-vinyl stannane 13 29 gave product 14 in 81% yield, which corresponds to the C_{1-9} fragment of the polyketide natural product mycinolide IV. In addition, Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling of 12 and (Z)-vinyl stannane 15 30 delivered diene 16 in 85% yield. Sonogashira coupling of 17 with ethyl propiolate (18) furnished enyne 19 in 81% yield.31

Conclusions

In summary, we developed Cu-catalyzed diastereoselective synthesis of (E)-δ-silyl-anti-homoallylic alcohols from 1,3dienylsilanes.32 Mechanistic studies revealed that the borocupration proceeded through a 1,2-addition pathway to give the allylcopper intermediate 6 as the most stable allylcopper species. However, the allylcopper intermediate 6 was funnelled to more reactive allylcopper species (E)-2 via reversible 1,3metallo shifts under Curtin-Hammett control in the subsequent aldehyde allylation step to give (E)-δ-silyl-anti-homoallylic alcohols with high diastereoselectivity. The α-silicon effect is proposed to be the underlying driving force for the observed selectivity. This method was applied to the synthesis of the C₁₋₉ fragment of a polyketide natural product mycinolide IV. Other synthetic applications of this method will be reported in due course.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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