Notes

A Simple Ring Annulation Method Using Homophthalic Anhydride

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Synthesis of anthraquinones^{1a} has been the object of considerable interest because of the important antileukemic activity¹⁶ of the structurally related anthracycline antibiotics. In numerous synthetic methods, we have been particularly interested in Michael addition of the 3-phenylsulfonyl-1(3H)-isobenzofuranones developed by Hauser² and prepared various anthracycline derivatives³ using this method. Recently, Kita et al.4 reported that homophthalic anhydride underwent thermal cycloaddition to symmetrical carbon-carbon multiple bonds to afford biologically important peri-hydroxyanthraquinones in a single step and developed new ring annulation methods⁵ by that. Khanapure⁶ also reported that the annulation occurred with the lithiated 3-cyano-1(3H)-isobenzofuranones. which were developed by Kraus,7 regardless of symmetry of the aryne intermediates. In contrast, Jung8 observed that only 3-bromoanisole underwent the aryne reaction with 3and 2-bromoanisoles.



On the basis of reference data,^{4,6,8} we were interested in the way of the reaction of homophthalic anhydride (1) with α , β -unsaturated carbonyl systems 2-3 and haloarenes 7a-c proceeds. We perceived that 1 showed different reaction type from those Kita and Khanapure reported. So in this paper, we would like to describe the new synthetic method toward anthracenone derivatives by those reactions.

Results and Discussion

When compound 1 was reacted with 3 and 2 following the Kita's method (LDA/THF or NaH/THF) and modifications (MeONa/MeOH, *t*-BuOLi/THF), no reaction occurred as expected^{4a} because the acceptors 2 and 3 were both unsymmetric. In the presence of *t*-BuOK in THF.⁹ however, a clean reaction was realized with 2, but again no reaction was observed with 3. Carboxyanthracenone 4a (liquid) and its tautomer 4b (solid) were obtained in the ratio of 1:2as shown in Scheme 1. Methylation of these tautomeric mixture with dimethyl sulfate furnished a chromatographically separable mixture of 5a and 5b in 63% overall yield. When the mixture of 4a and 4b was refluxed for 3 hr without isolation, decarboxylated product 6 was obtained below 40% yield as Kita's results,^{4*} but refluxing in 1,2-dichlorobenzene for 3 hr after usual workup improved the yield to 89%.



According to Jung.⁸ 3-phenylsulfonylphthalide²³ and 3-cyanophthalide⁷ give condensation products with bromoanisoles 7a and 7c, but not with 7b. Thus we turned our attention to the reactions of 1 with haloarenes (Scheme 2).

When t-BuOK, NaH, t-BuOLi or MeONa was used as base. no reaction was observed in all three cases. However, when LDA (3.0 equiv.) was used, 7a and 7b failed to react with 1 in contrast to the results of Khanapure⁶ and Jung.⁸ In the case of 7c, an unexpected quinone 9c was obtained as the sole product in 65% yield. In the expected product a carboxy group would be present¹⁰ as 4 or be removed⁴ as 6 at C-10 position. The symmetric structure was proven unambiguously by various spectroscopic analyses. Khanapure⁶ reported that the arynes, generated in situ from bromoarenes with LDA react with lithiated 1(3H)-isobenzofuranones to yield lithium salt of 10-hydroxyanthrone, that subsequently undergo air oxidation slowly to the appropriate anthraquinone. Thus, the formation of carbonyl group of 9c might be rationalized by the formation of lithiated anthrone 8 via decarboxylation of carboxylate, and subsequent air oxidation. Condensation of homophthalic anhydride with bromodimethoxybenzene, therefore, offers a novel approach to the synthesis of anthracycline derivatives containing quinone moiety at Cring.



In conclusion, the condensation of homophthalic anhydride with unsymmetrical 2-cyclohexen-1-one in the presence of t-BuOK gives two kinds of carboxyanthracenones **4a-b**, and with 1-bromo-2,5-dimethoxybenzene (7c) in the presence of LDA affords anthraquinone **9c** in one-step procedure,

Experimental

All reagents and solvents were dried and purified according to the conventional procedures immediately before use. Melting points were determined on a Buchi 510 Apparatus and are uncorrected. GC/MS spectra were taken with a Nermag model R10-10C spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained on a JEOL JMN-EX 400 MHz apparatus with TMS as the internal standard.

Condensation of 1 with 2. To a solution of t-BuOK (3.1 mL, 3.05 mmol, 1.0 M solution in THF) in THF (20 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of homophthalic anhydride 1 (0.49 g, 3.05 mmol) in THF (5 mL) over 15 min, and stirred for 30 min. A solution of 2-cyclohexen-1one 2 (0.3 mL, 3.05 mmol) in 5 mL of THF was added dropwise over 15 min, and stirred for 1 hr, and warmed to room temperature for 3 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched with ammonium chloride. The product was isolated by successive extractions with EtOAc (4×30 mL) to give crude 4a**b** as a pale yellow oil. The mixture of **4a** and **4b** were methylated with dimethyl sulfate in acetone. Workup followed by column chromatography (EtOAc : Hexane, 1:4) afforded 5a and 5b (1:2, 63% overall yield): 5a: White powder; mp 134-135 C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (dd, 1H, J = 8.06, 1.47 Hz, ArH), 7.35 (ddd, 1H, J=8.06, 7.33, 1.46 Hz, ArH), 6.91 (d, 2H, J = 7.32 Hz, ArH), 3.77 (s. 3H, OCH₃), 3.54 (d. 1H, J =13.19 Hz), 3.00 (ddd, 1H, J=13.18, 8.79, 4.39 Hz), 2.38 (ddd, 2H. J=12.45, 8.79, 3.66 Hz), 1.87-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.24 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 188.61, 181.72, 173.76, 138.29, 132.90, 131.04, 127.87, 126.77, 125.68, 106.18, 52.33, 52.08, 35.95, 32.39, 28.26, 20.55. 5b: light yellow syrup; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (dd, 1H, J=7.33, 5.13 Hz, ArH), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.98 (dd, 1H, J=7.33, 5.13 Hz, ArH), 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.72 (d, 1H, J = 14.66Hz), 3.22 (dddd, 1H, J = 13.92, 11.72, 4.40, 2.20 Hz), 2.58 (dddd, 1H, J = 14.65, 11.72, 4.40, 2.20 Hz), 2.42 (ddd, 1H, J =12.46, 6.60, 5.76 Hz), 2.03-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.73 (m, 1H), 1.51-1.44 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 198.46, 174.09, 160.47, 135.50, 131.18, 130.47, 127.73, 125.49, 125.33, 117.15, 61.77, 52.33, 52.14, 40.90, 38.82, 28.81, 21.34. The Mixture of 4a and 4b was refluxed in 1,2-dichlorobenzene for 3 hr to give 6 (89%) as a light yellow powder: mp 77-78 C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) & 14.00 (s, 1H, OH), 8.10 (d, 1H, J=7.81 Hz), 7.44 (d, 1H, J=7.81 Hz), 7.39 (dd, 1H, J=7.81, 6.83 Hz), 7.25 (t, 1H, J = 6.84 Hz), 6.84 (s, 1H), 2.82 (dd, 2H, J = 6.84, 5.86 Hz), 2.56 (dd, 2H, J = 6.84, 5.86 Hz), 1.93 (ddd, 2H, J = 12.69, 6.84, 5.86 Hz): ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) & 205.1, 163.3, 138.3, 137.4, 130.3, 126.8, 124.4, 123.9, 116.3, 111.5, 39.0, 30.2, 23.0,

Condensation of 1 with 7c. To a stirred solution of LDA at -78 °C, prepared from diisopropylamine (0.78 mL, 5.99 mmol), dry THF (20 mL), and *n*-BuLi (4.6 mL, 5.99 mmol, 1.6 M solution in hexanes) under N₂ at 0 °C, was added a slurry of homophthalic anhydride I (0.35 g, 2.19 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL), and the mixture was stirred 20 min. A solution of 1-bromo-2,5-dimethoxybenzene 7c (0.3 mL,

1.99 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise for 20 min at -40 °C. The mixture was stirred further for 1 hr. and allowed to warm to room temperature slowly for 3 hr. The dark reddish brown solution was then quenched with saturated ammonium chloride solution. THF was evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue was extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated to provide crude products. Purification of the products was accomplished by flash column chromatography (EtOAc : Hexane, 7 : 3) to furnish 9c (65%) as a yellow crystal: mp 160-162 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (dd, 2H, J=8.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.71 (dd, 2H, J=8.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.33 (s, 2H, ArH), 3.99 (s, 6H, OCH₃×2); ¹³C NMR δ 183.49, 154.14, 134.23, 133.33, 126.44, 123.05, 120.33, 57.02.

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Aromatic Ring Annelation Using the 3-Carbomethoxy-1(3H)-isobenzofuranone and Methyl 2carbomethoxybenzylcarboxylate

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Phthalides are very useful in organic synthesis. Especially, by condensing their metallated internediates with Michael acceptors such as α , β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds and arynes.¹ 3-phenylsulfonyl- and 3-cyano-1(3H)-isobenzofuranone have been widely used for the construction of anthraquinones, anthracyclines and other related compounds, which have biochemically important quinone moieties. These reactions are composed of Michael reaction followed by base-induced cyclization. Numerous phthalides which are cyclic form have been used as a Michael donor for the condensation with various α , β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds. For examples, 3-phenylsulfonyl-1(3H)-isobenzofuranone,2 3-cyano-1(3 H)-isobenzofuranone,3 and unvised phthalides4 were employed. Various o-substituted benzyl derivatives which are open chained form have been also used as a Michael donor. For examples, methyl 2-carbomethoxybenzylcarboxylate,3 2-carboethoxybenzyl phenyl sulfoxide.2 methyl 2-tosylmethylnicotinate" and 2-carbomethoxy toluene derivatives' were respectively utilized. Among those Michael donors, 3-cyano-1(3H)isobenzofuranone was used to accomplish the quinone moiety with arynes by Khanapure.* Jung" explained the orientation of arynes generated in situ from haloarene with base. Besides, there are many examples to show the reactions of arynes with other donors.10

Referring to the series of those papers, we have been inte-

rested in whether phthalides and methyl 2-methylbenzoate substituted at the benzylic position with carbomethoxy group could serve as a Michael donor or not. The calculation of the withdrawing force of substituents¹¹ made us find out some differences in cyanides, phenyl sulfones, and recently reported dimethyl phthalide 3-phosphonate¹² (Table 1). Nevertheless, in the reaction of phthalide (1a) and methyl 2methylbenzoate (2a) substituted at the benzylic position with carbomethoxy group, we obtain a similar reactivity that we did with various α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds and arynes. So herein we would like to report the results.

Results and Discussion

To synthesize the anthracycline derivatives, we have carried out the Michael reaction by three kinds of phthalide sulfone (7-methoxy, 4-methoxy- and unvised phthalide sulfone).13 However, these three phthalides did not show any difference in their reactivities whether it had methoxy group on aromatic ring or not. So we tried the reaction with unvised phthalides la-c and carboxylates 2a-c. 3-Carbomethoxy-1(3H)-isobenzofuranone (1a), the new donor was obtained by the reaction of phthalide (1.0 g, 7.45 mmol) with methyl chloroformate (0.18 mL, 10.4 mmol) in the presence of t-BuOK (11.9 mL, 11.9 mmol, 1.0 M solution in THF) in 85% yield (mp 174-175 C) and Ib, Ic was prepared as reported23 Methyl 2-carbomethoxybenzylcarboxylate (2a), 2-carbomethoxybenzyl phenyl sulfone (2b) and 2-carbomethoxy benzyl cyanide (2c) were prepared from methyl 2-methylbenzoate by the method 1. Schemes 1 and 2 show the reactions of two types of Michael donor (1 and 2) with two types of Michael acceptor (3, 4 and 5).

The reaction of **1a** with α . β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds (**3**, and **4**) was carried out under the method A (LDA/THF)^{2.3} and the B (*t*-BuOLi/THF).¹³ Consequently, the method B showed the better yield than the method A (Table 2). The other donors (**1b** and **1c**) were carried out under the same condition, and method B also showed the better



Table	1.	Predicted	Charge	Densities	for	Renzulie	Anione	af.	+ h	D)	-				
	<u> </u>				101	Densyne	Autous	OI.	пę	Donors	١.	21	ov PM3	and	AMI

	P	un	0001						
			COOMe	SO ₂ Ph	CN	PO(OMe).	Tos	SOPh	
Donor 1	AM1	- 0.2865	- 0 3256	- 1.0601					
	PM3	-0.2047	0.02.00	- 1.0601	-0.2257	-1.0682	-0.1022	-0.5073	
D 0	1 141.5	-0.3047	-0.3642	-0.7971	-0.2307	-0.7007	-0.0720	0.4055	
Donor 2	AM1	-0.3922	-0.4908	-1.0068	~ 0.2825	1 2104	0.0720	-0.4 0 57	
	PM3	-0.4602	- 0 5666	0.0015	0.0000	-1.3134	-0.3017	-0.6460	
			0.0000	- 0.8217	-0.4185	-9522	-0.3604	-0.6267	
				0.8217	-0.4185	-9522	-0.3604	-0.6267	



yield than in LDA (Method A) or t-BuOK/DMSO.1415 However, three donors la-c showed the almost same yield in the reaction with 3 and 4 under the method B.

It is supposed that the mechanism in the reaction of la with $\alpha.\beta\text{-unsaturated}$ carbonyl compound 3 and 4 would be almost the same as that of 1b² or 1c.³ Through those procedures, 7 was obtained easily from the reaction of 1 with 3. The reaction of 1 with 4 made 8, which was readily oxidized to the corresponding anthraquinone 10 in the air.13,14 For the reaction of 1c and bromoarene 5, Khanapure⁸ reported that o- and m-haloanisole could be reacted with 1c in LDA respectively and Jung9 reported that only m-haloanisole could be performed. Nevertheless, in our experiment, the new donor la which had carbomethoxy group reacted with 5b, 5c under the method A, but o-bromoanisole (5a) what is like Jung's result, and that 1b. 1c also showed the same result as Ia in LDA. However, in the method B, the result was proved completely different from that of the method A. It seems that three kinds of donor la-c were not proceeded with any bromoarene 5a-c in the presence of t-BuOLi.

In the reaction with benzyl carboxylate derivatives which are open chained form, Schmid⁵ first reported the condensation of 2a with 3 in the NaOMe to yield compound 13 (53%).

Product

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So, Two kinds of base (Method A, B) were applied to Scheme 2. Compound 14 was obtained from the reaction of 2a with 3 in LDA followed by the acidification of 13 with no purification, and the reaction of 2a with 4 made 15 by the same method. The other donors, 2b and 2c made the results as shown in Table 2 by the reaction with 3 and 4. In the method B, almost the same result was obtained by the reaction of 2a-c and 3, 4 respectively. Hauser and co-workers² could not obtain the 15 from the reaction of 2-carboethoxy phenyl sulfoxide with 4 in LDA. In contrast, we were able to prepare 15 from 2b and 4 by the two methods. In the respective reaction of 2a and bromoarenes 5a-c, all the anisoles which had halogen in any position did not proceed. Furthermore, 2b and 2c did not react with 5a-c under the two conditions, either. These suggest that the reactivity of I in the reaction with 5 is better than that of 2 between 2 types of donor.

In conclusion, the new Michael donor 1a can produce the same reaction with Michael acceptor like as 1b and 1c. 2ac can react with $\alpha,\beta\text{-unsaturated carbonyl compound 3 and$ 4, but not with haloarenes 5a-c. The reactivity of donor 1 composed of lactone ring is better than that of the open chained type donor 2 in the reaction with all of the Michael acceptors.

Experimental

All reagents and solvents were dried and purified according to the conventional procedures immediately before use. Melting points were determined on a Büchi 510 Apparatus and are uncorrected. GC/MS spectra were taken with a Nermag model R10-10C spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained on a JEOL JMN-EX 400 MHz apparatus with TMS as the internal standard.

General Procedure for the Reaction of Michael Acceptors 3, 4 with Michael Donors 1, 2; (Method B),

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Donor		_	lb					1c							
Acceptor	3	4	5a	5b	5e	3	4	5a	5b	5c	3	4	5a	5b	
Method A (LDA) ^{ab}	78	74	-	35	70	72 (70)″	71 (69)'	_	40	70	76 (85) [#]	70 (42)	- (35)*	43 (40)*	80 (75)
Method B (t-BuOLi) ¹³	93	90	-	-	_	92	91	-	•	-	85 (66)'	79 (60) ^r	_	-	-
Product	7	10	_	11	12	7	ŧO	-	11	12	7	10	11	11	12
Donor			2a -					2b					2c		
Acceptor	3	4	5a	5b	5c	3	4	5a	5b	5e	3	4		5b	5c
Method A (LDA) ^{4,6}	62 (53)	35	_	_	-	58 (44) ^r	31 (-)"	_	_	-	55	27		-	_
Method B	66	38		_	-	67	35	-	-	-	62	31	_		_

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"Acceptor (3) is ethylcrotonate, and Donor (2b) is 2-carboethoxybenzyl phenyl sulfoxide.". *Acceptor (3) is 3-penten-2-one or ethylcrotonate.3 Acceptor (4) is naphthalenone derivatives (two steps).16 Acceptor (3) is methyl vinyl ketone, base is t-BuOK/DMSO.15 Base is t-BuOK/DMSO¹⁴ insted of t-BuOLi/THF. /Base is sodium methoxide.⁵

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To a magnetically stirred cold (-78 °C) solution of lithium *tert*-butoxide (3.0 mmol) prepared from *n*-butyllithium (1.87 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.6 M solution in hexanes) and *tert*-butyl alcohol (0.28 mL, 3.0 mmol), Michael donor (1.0 mmol) was added as a slurry in THF (10 mL). The yellow anion solution, still at -78 °C, was stirred 1 h and then Michael acceptor (1.0 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added. The reaction was continued at -78 °C for 1 h at which point the cooling bath was removed and reaction was allowed to stand at rt overnight and was quenched by the addition of 3 N HCl. After standard assay work-up, the crude product was carried column chromatography (hexane : CH₂Cl₂, 1:9) to give 7, 10, 14, 15 respectively.

Method A. All the procedures and conditions are the same as the method B except using LDA (3.0 mmol) instead of *t*-BuOLi.

Methyl 3-methyl-1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoate (7). light brown syrup; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 12.03 (s, 1H, OH), 8.01-8.10 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.63 (m, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.50 (s, 3H, PhCH₃).

1-Hydroxyanthraquinone (10). 8 was prepared from 1 and 4, and readily oxidized to 10: yellow crystal: mp 177-8 °C; 'H NMR (CDCl₃) & 12.62 (s, 1H, OH), 8.29-8.36 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.87 (m, 3H), 7.69 (t, 1H, J=8.06 Hz), 7.49-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.33 (dd, 1H, J=7.33, 1.47 Hz).

Methyl 1-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-naphthoate (14). light yellow syrup; 'H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 11.90 (s, 1H, OH), 7.64-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.52 (m, 4H), 4.11 (s, 3H, PhCH₃), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃); MS, m/z 216 (M⁻).

10-Hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroanthracen-1-one (15). orange crystal; mp 77-78 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 14.00 (s, 1H, OH), 8.10 (d, 1H, *J*=7.81 Hz), 7.44 (d, 1H, *J*=7.81 Hz), 7.39 (dd, 1H, *J*=7.81, 6.83 Hz), 7.25 (t, 1H, *J*=6.84 Hz), 2.82 (dd, 2H, *J*=5.86, 6.84 Hz), 2.56 (dd, 2H, *J*=5.86, 6.84 Hz), 1.93 (ddd, 2H, *J*=12.69, 6.84, 5.86 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 205.1, 163.3, 138.3, 137.4, 130.3, 126.8, 124.9, 124.4, 123.9, 116.3, 111.5, 39.0, 30.2, 23.0; Ms, m/z 212 (M⁻).

General Procedure for the Reaction of bromoarenes 5a-c with Michael Donors 1, 2; (Method A). In a flame-dried flask flushed with nitrogen, LDA (3.0 mmol) was prepared by adding diisopropylamine (0.39 mL, 3.0 mmol) into a -78 °C solution of n-BuLi (1.87 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.6 M solution in hexanes) in THF (10 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. After solution was stirred for 10 min, the appropriate Michael donor (1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise over 20 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to -40 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred further and allowed to warm to room temperature. The dark reddish brown solution was then quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution, THF was evaporated under the reduced pressure, and the residue was extracted with methylene chloride. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried $(MgSO_4)$.

Method B. All the procedures and conditions are the

same as the method A except using t-BuOLi (3.0 mmol) instead of LDA.

1-Methoxyanthraquinone (11). yellow crystal; mp 168-169 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (dd, 1H, J=7.33, 1.47 Hz), 8.24 (d, 1H, J=8.06 Hz), 7.97 (d, 1H, J=7.32 Hz), 7.71-7.80 (m, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H, OCH₃); MS, m/z 238 (M⁺).

1,4-Dimethoxyanthraquinone (12). orange crystal; mp 160-162 C (lit.⁴ mp 165-166 C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (dd, 2H, J=5.86, 2.93 Hz), 7.71 (dd, 2H, J=5.86, 2.93 Hz), 7.35 (s, 2H), 4.00 (s, 6H, OCH₃×2); ¹³C NMR δ 183.5, 154.1, 134.2, 133.3, 126.4, 123.0, 120.2, 57.0; MS, m/z 268 (M).

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