Z. SHI, T.-P. LOH* (UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY OF CHINA, HEFEI, P. R. OF CHINA AND DIVISION OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE)

Organocatalytic Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Pyridines at Room Temperature
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2013**, *52*, 8584–8587.

Category

Synthesis of Heterocycles

Key words

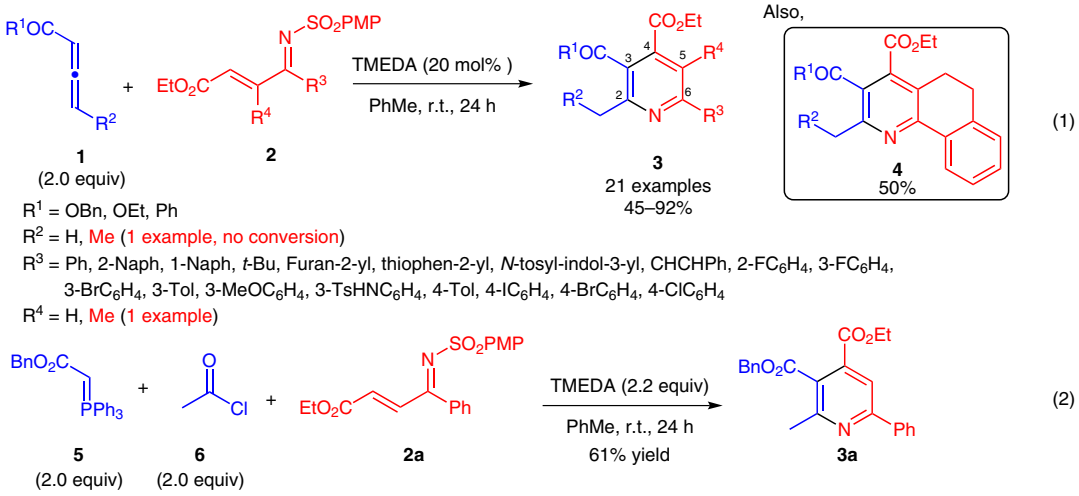
organocatalysis

aza-Rauhut–Currier reaction

Morita–Baylis–Hillman reaction

pyridines

Organocatalytic Route to 2,3,4,6-Tetra- and 2,3,4,5,6-Pentasubstituted Pyridines



1 (2.0 equiv) 2 3 21 examples 45–92% 4 50% (1)

R^1 = OBn, OEt, Ph
R^2 = H, Me (1 example, no conversion)
R^3 = Ph, 2-Naph, 1-Naph, *t*-Bu, Furan-2-yl, thiophen-2-yl, *N*-tosyl-indol-3-yl, CHCHPh, 2-FC_6H_4, 3-FC_6H_4, 3-BrC_6H_4, 3-Tol, 3-$MeOC_6H_4$, 3-$TsHNC_6H_4$, 4-Tol, 4-IC_6H_4, 4-BrC_6H_4, 4-ClC_6H_4
R^4 = H, Me (1 example)

5 (2.0 equiv) 6 (2.0 equiv) 2a 3a (2)

Significance: Reported is the synthesis of 2,3,4,6-tetra- and 2,3,4,5,6-pentasubstituted pyridines **3** and **4** from the reaction of allenoates **1** with 1-aza-1,3-dienes **2** via an aza-Rauhut–Currier/cyclization/desulfonation reaction sequence. The starting materials **1** and **2** were obtained by following reported protocols as cited in the supporting information. Although 20% TMEDA in toluene was found to be optimum for the reaction, it also proceeds with other catalysts (alkyl amines) or solvents (MeCN, CH_2Cl_2, $CHCl_3$, THF), albeit in lower yields. A variety of highly functionalized pyridines were obtained in moderate to good yields under optimum conditions (eq. 1). Both electron-donating and -withdrawing groups containing aryls, as well as heteroaryls (R^3) may be used. Highly unstable **1** (R^1 = Ph, R^2 = H) was tolerated under the reported conditions. One example of a one-pot three-component reaction was reported to further simplify this protocol (eq. 2). A reaction mechanism starting with nucleophilic addition of TMEDA to **1** was provided without any experimental evidence.

Comment: While the Morita–Baylis–Hillman (MBH) reaction has emerged as a popular synthetic methodology for providing highly functionalized compounds, its analogous variant, i.e., vinylogous MBH [Rauhut–Currier (RC)] reaction is lesser known because of the low reactivity of substrates and the difficulty in controlling the selectivity of the cross-coupling reaction (see Review below). A majority of RC reactions utilize air-sensitive phosphine catalysts, and stable amine-catalyzed RC reactions are uncommon. The current work is an improvement on previous work as it provides valuable highly functionalized pyridines by using an inexpensive and air-stable catalyst at ambient temperature. However, lack of easily available starting materials is a limitation of this method.

Review: K. Kaur, I. N. N. Namboothiri *Chimia* **2012**, *66*, 913–920.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Victor Snieckus, Suneel P. Singh
Synfacts 2013, 9(11), 1153 Published online: 18.10.2013
DOI: 10.1055/s-0033-1339996; **Reg-No.:** V11913SF