**Introduction**

Lewis acids play a vital role in synthetic organic reactions since their use avoids the conventional, traditional and corrosive or harsh acid catalytic route. Lewis acids most habitually encountered in organic synthesis are AlCl₃, BF₃·Et₂O, ZnCl₂, TiCl₄ and SnCl₂. Even though indium belongs to the same group in the periodic table as boron and aluminium, InCl₃ as a Lewis acid for organic reactions has not been exploited unlike the other Lewis acids during past decades. But recently, it has been proven that InCl₃ is a mild, worthwhile Lewis acid; which is stable in aqueous medium, effectively and selectively catalyzes various important organic reactions. The recent emergence of InCl₃ as an efficient Lewis acid catalyst presents new and exciting opportunities for organoindium chemistry. It has been used as a catalyst for a wide variety of organic transformations and reactions since its emergence as a catalyst. InCl₃ was used in the synthesis of aryl hydrazides, 2-haloamines, cis-aziridine carboxylates, chiral furan diol, quinolines, and homoallyl acetates. Also it has been used in reductive Friedel-Crafts alkylation of aromatics with ketones or aldehydes, for the reaction of acid chlorides with allylic tins, for the insertion reactions of diazo ketones, Biginelli reaction, Mukaiyama aldol reactions, imino Diels-Alder reactions, in the conjugate addition of indoles with electron-deficient olefins, for the bromolysis or iodolysis of epoxycarboxylic acids etc.

**Abstracts**

An efficient, mild and highly chemoselective thioacetalization of carbonyl compounds using InCl₃ as the catalyst was developed. Treatment of tri-O-acetyl-D-glucal with various alcohols and phenols in the presence of InCl₃/DCM at ambient temperature gave the corresponding alkyl aryl 2,3-unsaturated glycopyranosides in excellent yields with good anomeric selectivity.

ISSN 0936-5214
A simple and efficient procedure for the rearrangement of substituted epoxides catalyzed by InCl₃ was developed and selectivity was observed in the case of aryl-substituted epoxides.14

InCl₃ (20 mol%) in nitromethane permits ionic Diels-Alder reaction of a variety of 2,3-olefinic acetals to form the respective cycloadducts in good yields with good endo selectivity.15

The direct aldol reactions of various ketones with glyoxyllic and glyoxylates in the presence of InCl₃ afforded the α-hydroxy acid and α-hydroxy esters in good yields with high regioselectivities.16

The reduction of a wide range of acid chlorides to the corresponding aldehydes was carried out using indium trichloride in the presence of triphenylphosphene.17

The ring opening of α,β-epoxy carboxylic acids by bromide and iodide ions has been efficiently carried out in water in a high regio- and stereoselective fashion in the presence of indium trichloride as catalyst.18

References


(3) Yadav, J. S.; Reddy, B. V. S.; Kumar, G. M. *Synlett* 2001, 1417.


