

ELECTROPHILIC α AMINATION REACTION OF β KETO ESTER USING N
HYDROXY CARBAMATES –MERGING AEROBIC OXIDATION AND LEWIS ACID
CATALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The power of nitrocarbonyl chemistry and demonstrate their potential as new viable electrophilic source of nitrogen in α - functionalization reaction. Nitroso carbonyls as an alternative to aryl nitroso compounds provide the products with a synthetically easily manipulated N—carbonyl bond. We present the development of the first N-selective nitrosoaldol reaction utilizing nitrosoformate esters, generated in situ, as the electrophilic source of nitrogen. Asymmetric α -amination of carbonyl compounds is of considerable significance in organic synthesis. The chiral α -amino carbonyl products are versatile building blocks, and they can be easily transformed into new valuable functional compounds, such as α -amino acids, α -amino aldehydes, and β -amino alcohols.

KEYWORDS: Nitroso carbonyls, nitrosoaldol methods, N-hydroxycarbamates

An established strategy is the use of stable aryl nitroso compounds as N electrophiles to construct the enantioenriched α -amino carbonyls with chiral transition metals^[1] or organocatalysts.^[2] However, the application of these α -amino carbonyl products is synthetically limited owing to difficulties associated with cleaving the

N—aryl bond. Asymmetric α -amination of carbonyl compounds is of considerable significance in organic synthesis. An established strategy is the use of stable aryl

nitroso compounds as N electrophiles to construct the enantioenriched α -amino carbonyls with chiral transition metals^[1] or organocatalysts.^[2]

Nitroso carbonyls as an alternative to aryl nitroso compounds provide the products with a synthetically easily manipulated N—carbonyl bond. As a result of their high reactivity and instability, nitroso carbonyls are generally in situ generated through the oxidation of

precursors of *N*-hydroxycarbamates.^[3] Yamamoto and co-workers reported the first example of the copper(II) trifluoromethanesulfonate [Cu(OTf)₂]-catalyzed asymmetric α -aminoxylation of α -substituted *b*-keto esters through the in situ generation of nitrosocarbonyls from the MnO₂-mediated oxidation of the corresponding *N*-hydroxycarbamates.^[4] Almost at the same time, Read de Alaniz discovered the CuCl- and Cu(OTf)₂-catalyzed α -hydroxyamination of α -substituted *b*-keto esters. Nevertheless, attempts at an asymmetric version failed because the chiral ligands made the nitrosoaldol reaction O selective.^[6] The study showed that oxidants of this

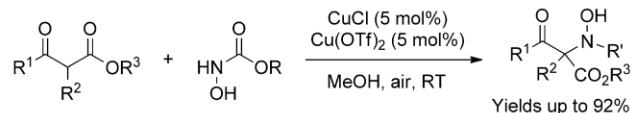
type played a crucial role in the regioselectivity (e.g., N- versus O-nitrosoaldol reaction). All other screened oxidants such as Cu^I/pyridine with O₂, MnO₂, and PhI(OAc)₂ preferred O selectivity. Furthermore, very recently, Maruoka^[8] and Yamamoto^[9] independently developed elegant strategies for the asymmetric α -hydroxyamination of aldehydes by using MnO₂ as the oxidant and chiral (*R*)-2-triphenylmethylpyrrolidine (2) and (*S*)-proline-tetrazole 3 as respective catalysts to achieve high N selectivity. The amino-oxylation reaction to afford α -oxygenated carbonyl compounds has been extensively developed and now represents a versatile method to gain access to the α -xycarbonyl synthon (Figure 1a).⁴

Notably absent from nitrosoaldol methods are examples with nitrosocarbonyl intermediates, which can easily be modified and would represent a desirable alternative to aryl nitroso compounds in electrophilic amination. In this communication, we present the development of the first N-selective nitrosoaldol reaction utilizing nitrosoformate esters, generated in situ, as the electrophilic source of nitrogen (Figure 1c

).⁷ This new process is highly N-selective, uses an operationally convenient procedure, air, as the sole oxidant, and provides direct entry into α -aminocarbonyl derivatives with functional groups that are easy to manipulate. We focused on a series of functional group manipulations that highlight the utility of using a nitrosoformate intermediate as the electrophilic source of nitrogen. For example, hydrogenation of the Cbz-group with 5 mol% Pd/C or an acid catalyzed deprotection of Boc-group leads to α -hydroxylamine product

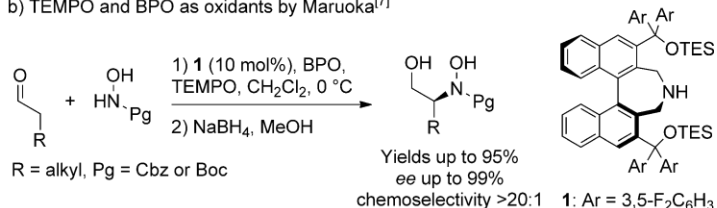
Scheme 1

Catalytic non-asymmetric α -hydroxyamination of β -ketoesters by Read de Alaniz^[5]

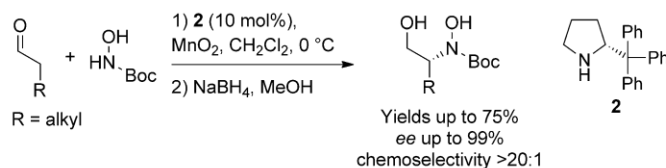


Catalytic asymmetric α -hydroxyamination of aldehydes

b) TEMPO and BPO as oxidants by Maruoka^[7]



c) MnO₂ as oxidant by Maruoka^[8]



d) MnO₂ as oxidant by Yamamoto^[9]

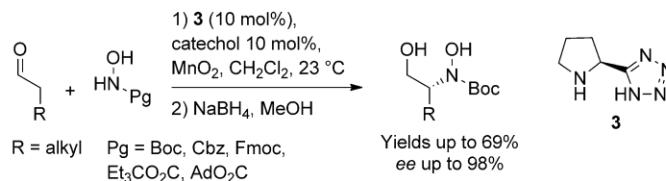
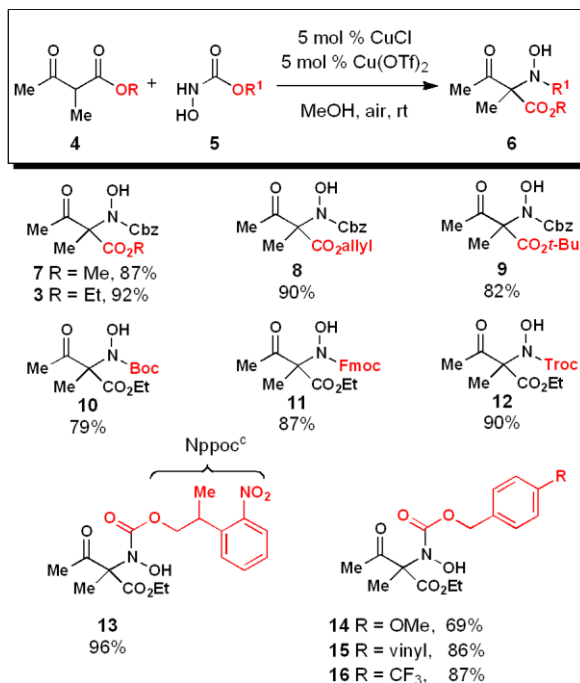


Table 2. Substrate Scope Studies for the Nitrosoformate α -Amination Reaction^{a,b}



^aAll reactions were performed with reagent-grade MeOH, using 1.2 equiv of 4 and 1 equiv of 5. ^bYields are reported as isolated yields of the N-regioisomer. The new methodology harnesses the power of nitrosocarbonyl chemistry and demonstrates their potential as a new viable electrophilic source of nitrogen in α -functionalization reactions.

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