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Ring Cleavage and Successive Aldol Reaction of 3[(Trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutano nes

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ABSTRACT

3-[(Trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones reacted with aldehydes by activation with titanium(IV) chloride to give acyclic β , γ -unsaturated β '-hydroxy ketones.

Cyclobutanones are interesting building blocks for organic synthesis, and we have reported on the synthetic utility of 3-ethoxycyclobutanones for formal [4+2] cycloaddition reactions with aldehydes, ketones, Allylsilanes, allylsilanes, and silyl enol ethers to give the corresponding six-membered ring compounds.

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1 reacted with 3-ethoxycyclobutanone benzaldehyde to give tetrahydropyrone 2 under the catalysis of Lewis acid (eq 1).² In the course of these studies, it was also found that substitution with a (trialkylsilyl)methyl group at the 2-position of cyclobutanone facilitated ring cleavage of the cyclobutanone ring. 9 We then tried to investigate the effect of (trialkylsilyl)methyl group at the 3-position of the cyclobutanone, and found that a reaction between 3-[(trimethylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanone 3 and an aldehyde gave an acyclic aldol product 4 bearing a β,γ-unsaturated group, which would be difficult to prepare by the regioselective aldol reaction of β,γ -unsaturated ketone 5 (Scheme 1). 10 We would like to describe here this

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unique ring cleavage and aldol reaction of 3-[(trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones.

Scheme 1. Regioselective Formation of Aldol Adduct **4** From Cyclobutanone **3**.

3-[(trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones The employed in this study were prepared by a [2+2] cycloaddition reaction between allylsilane and a keteneiminium salt which was generated from the corresponding pyrrolidine amide 6 (Table 1). 11 Dialkyland 2-monoalkyl-substituted [(trimethylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones 7a-f were prepared in good yields. Cyclobutanones having tbutyldimethylsilyl and triisopropylsilyl groups 7g,h were prepared by the same method. Attempted preparation of cyclobutanone 7i which had no substituents at its 2position gave an inseparable mixture of 7i and byproducts by this procedure. Therefore, 7i was prepared by another route: [2+2] cycloaddition between dichloroketene and allyltrimethylsilane followed by dechlorination, pure 7i was obtained in good yield (Scheme 2).

Table 1. Preparation of 3-[(Trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones **7a–h**

entry	7	R ¹	\mathbb{R}^2	SiR ₃	yield (%)
1	7a	Me	Me	SiMe ₃	77
2	7b	Et	Et	$SiMe_3$	75
3	7c	-(CH ₂) ₄ -		$SiMe_3$	85
4	7d	-(CH ₂) ₅ -		$SiMe_3$	88
5	7e	Me	Н	$SiMe_3$	77^{a}
6	7f	CH_2Ph	Н	SiMe ₃	64 ^a

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7	7g	Me	Me	SiMe ₂ t-Bu	85
8	7h	Me	Me	$Si(i-Pr)_3$	75

^a Mixture of diastereomers: **7e** (84:16), **7f** (93:7).

Scheme 2. Preparation of Cyclobutanone 7i.

First, we screened Lewis acids which promoted the reaction between cyclobutanone 7a and benzaldehyde (Table 2). It was found that the use of titanium(IV) chloride gave β,γ -unsaturated aldol product 8 in 93% yield, while the use of titanium(IV) bromide gave α,β -unsaturated one 9 in 34% yield (entries 1 and 2). It was assumed that enone 9 was formed by isomerization of the initially formed product 8. Catalysis of tin(IV) chloride gave 8 in only 4% yield (entry 3). Even ring cleavage of 7a was not observed in the case of other Lewis acids such as BF_3 - OEt_2 and $Sc(OTf)_3$.

Table 2. Effect of Lewis Acid on Reaction Between **7a** and Benzaldehyde.

entry	Lewis acid	8 (% yield)	9 (% yield)
1	TiCl ₄	93	-
2	$TiBr_4$	-	34
3	$SnCl_4$	4	-

Next, the scope and limitations of the reaction of 3-[(trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones and aldehydes were studied using titanium(IV) chloride as Lewis acid. Benzaldehyde derivatives with methyl, methoxy, or halogens at the para positions of benzene ring were employed first. It was found that substitution with halogens gave high yields of the desired products **10a-c** (Table 3, entries 1–3) whereas reactions of methyl or methoxy-substituted benzaldehyde gave the desired compounds **10d,e** in 80 and 54% yields, respectively

⁽¹²⁾ Other regioisomers were not obtained.

(entries 4 and 5). Therefore, the electrophilicity of the aldehydes affected the efficiency of this reaction. The reaction with 1-naphthyl aldehyde proceeded sluggishly to afford 10f in 55% yield, but that of 2-naphthyl aldehyde gave the corresponding product 10g in 88% yield (entries 6 and 7). Notable differences were observed in the reaction with 1- and 2-naphthyl aldehydes suggesting that this reaction was influenced easily by steric effects. Aliphatic aldehydes such as octanal and 3phenylpropanal gave the desired products 10h,i in high yields (entries 8 and 9), while increased steric hindrance in aldehydes such as *i*-butyl aldehyde, *i*-propyl aldehyde, and t-butyl aldehyde caused decreased yields of the desired products 10j-l (entries 10-12). When the reactions were carried out at higher reaction temperatures, the β , γ -unsaturated aldol products **10** isomerized to the corresponding α,β -unsaturated ones. The reaction with ketones such as acetophenone did not proceed.

Table 3. TiCl₄-Promoted Reaction Between **7a** and Various Aldehydes^a

SiMe₃ + O R
$$\xrightarrow{\text{TiCl}_4}$$
 O OH R $\xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ R $\xrightarrow{\text{TiCl}_4}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ R $\xrightarrow{\text{TiCl}_4}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ R $\xrightarrow{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{O}}$ $\xrightarrow{$

entry	R	10	yield (%)
1	$4-FC_6H_4$	10a	86
2	$4-ClC_6H_4$	10b	93
3	$4-BrC_6H_4$	10c	96
4	$4-MeC_6H_4$	10d	80
5	$4-MeOC_6H_4$	10e	54
6^{b}	1-Naph	10f	55
7	2-Naph	10g	88
8	$CH_3(CH_2)_6$	10h	93
9	$Ph(CH_2)_2$	10i	83
10	i-PrCH ₂	10j	49
11	i-Pr	10k	17
12	t-Bu	101	0

^a Cyclobutanone **7a** (1.4 equiv), Aldehyde (1.0 equiv), and $TiCl_4$ (1.4 equiv) were employed. ^b Reaction temperature: -78 to -18 °C, 3 h.

The reaction of other 2,2-dialkylcyclobutanones such as diethylcyclobutanone 7b and spirocyclobutanones 7c,d with benzaldehyde proceeded smoothly at -78 °C to afford β,γ-unsaturated aldol products 11a-c in good to high yields (Table 4, entries 1-3). The reaction of 2monoalkylcyclobutanones 7e,f required slightly elevated temperature (-45 °C), and that of 2-nonsubstituted cyclobutanone 7i needed to be carried out at -20 °C for efficient conversion (entries 4–6). More substituted cyclobutanones reacted at lower temperatures. Moderate syn selectivities were observed in the products 11d,e (entries 4 and 5). It was noted that cyclobutanones bearing other trialkylsily groups such as TBS and TIPS groups 7g,h gave the aldol product 8 (entries 7 and 8). These results suggested that even sterically hindered trialkylsilyl groups reacted in this reaction.

Table 4. TiCl₄-Promoted Reaction of Various 3-(Silylmethyl)cyclobutanones **7b–i** with Benzaldehyde. ^a

O R¹
$$R^2$$
 $+$ O Ph $\frac{\text{TiCl}_4}{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2}$ O OH Ph $\frac{\text{TiCl}_4}{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2}$ Ph $\frac{\text{R}_1}{\text{R}_2}$ R₁ R₂ 8, 11a-f entry conditions^a yield (%)

^a For reaction conditions, see Table 3 unless otherwise noted. ^b syn/anti = 80:20. ^c syn/anti = 70:30. ^d 7i (1.4 equivalents) and TiCl₄ (2.1 equivalents) were employed.

A plausible mechanism for the present ring cleavage and aldol reaction of 3-[(trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones is shown in Scheme 3. Activation of cyclobutanone 12 with titanium(IV) chloride gave bicyclobutonium ion 13, ¹³ and chloride ion attacked the trialkylsilyl group to form a trichlorotitanium enolate 14, whose formation was consistent with *syn* selectivity for the aldol reaction of a trichlorotitanium

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enolate.¹⁴ The regioselectivity for the formation of **14** was controlled by formation of the more substituted bicyclobutonium ion **13**, and the regioselectivity was preserved during the reaction. The aldol reaction of **14** with aldehyde proceeded to give **15**.

Scheme 3. Plausible Reaction Mechanism.

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
O & R^1 \\
\hline
 & R^2 & TiCl_4 \\
\hline
 & SiR_3
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
Cl_3Ti \\
O & R^1 \\
\hline
 & SiR_3
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
-R_3SiCl \\
\hline
 & SiR_3
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Cl_3Ti & O & OH \\ R^2 & R^1 & R^2 \\ 14 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

The synthetic utility of the β , γ -unsaturated aldol adducts was exemplified by transformation of **8** to the tetrahydropyrone **17** (Scheme 4). Epoxidation of β , γ -unsaturated aldol adduct **8** with *m*CPBA gave epoxide **16** in 92% yield. Treatment of epoxide **16** with boron trifluoride etherate gave tetrahydropyrone **17** in 87% yield.

Scheme 4. An Example of Transformation of **8**.

In conclusion, 3-[(trialkylsilyl)methyl]cyclobutanones react with aldehydes upon activation with titanium(IV) chloride to afford β,γ -unsaturated aldol adducts. Regioselective formation of a β,γ -unsaturated trichlorotitanium enolate was proposed. The present

method for generation of this unique enolate will likely be applicable to reactions with other electrophiles.

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Supporting Information Available Detailed experimental procedures and full spectroscopic characterization data for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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