Late-Stage Deoxyfluorination of Alcohols with PhenoFluor

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Kara George Rosenker Current Literature 23 February 2013

Fluorine in Medicinal Chemistry

- The carbon fluorine bond plays an integral role in agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, materials, and imaging
- Approximately 20% of all pharmaceuticals contain fluorine
- Strategies for the introduction of fluorine atoms in medicinal chemistry:
 - Metabolic stability by blocking metabolically labile sites
 - Modulate the physicochemical properties such as lipophilicity or basicity
 - Enhance binding affinity to a target protein
- Non-natural ¹⁸F is the most commonly used positron-emitting isotope for molecular positron emission tomography (PET) imaging in oncology





(a) Vitaku, E.; Ilardi, E.A.; Njarðarson, J.T. Top 200 Pharmaceutical Products by US Retail Sales in 2011. (b) Böhm, H.-J.; Banner, D.; Bendels, S.; Kansy, M.; Kuhn, B.; Müller, K.; Obst-Sander, U.; Stahl, M. ChemBioChem **2004**, *5*, 637. (c) Müller, K.; Faeh, C.; Diederich, F. Science **2007**, *317*, 1881. (d) Purser, S.; Moore, P. R.; Swallow, S.; Gouverneur, V. Chem. Soc. Rev. **2008**, *37*, 320. (e) Jens Langner, J.; retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PET-MIPS-anim.gif#filelinks

Carbon-Fluorine Bond Formation

- Despite fluorine's importance, carbon-fluorine bond formation still represents a formidable synthetic challenge
- Only 21 biosynthesized natural molecules containing fluorine are known and no fluoroperoxidase is known
- Conventional fluorination reactions are generally limited to very simple molecules, with reliable fluorination of more complex molecules at specific positions being difficult
- New methods to incorporate fluorine into complex organic molecules are crucial to the progress of the field



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Deoxyfluorination Reagents: DAST and Deoxo-Fluor[®]

- Reported by Middleton in 1975 as the first bench-stable deoxyfluorinating reagent and a useful alternative to ${\rm SF}_4$



• DAST suffers from poor thermal stability and potentially hazardous scale-up



 Deoxo-Fluor[®] was introduced in 1999 and is a significant competitor to DAST for deoxyfluorination reactions due to its improved thermal stability



Middleton, W.J. J. Org. Chem. **1975**, 40, 574. Lal, G. S.; Pez, G. P.; Pesaresi, R. J.; Prozonic, F. M.; Cheng, H. J. Org. Chem. **1999**, 64, 7048. Lal, G. S.; Pez, G. P.; Pesaresi, R. J.; Prozonic, F. M. Chem. Commun. **1999**, 215.

Deoxyfluorination Reagents: XtalFluor-E[®] and XtalFluor-M[®]



- In 2009, Courturier and co-workers reported the preparation and use of XtalFluor-E[®] and XtalFluor-M[®]
- XtalFluor-E[®] and XtalFluor-M[®] are crystalline reagents that are relatively safe and costefficient to prepare
- The reactions require the addition of either an HF•amine reagent or DBU for efficient transformation
- The XtalFluor[®] reagents are typically more selective and reduce the levels of elimination side products often observed with DAST and Deoxo-Fluor[®]

Deoxyfluorination Reagents: Fluolead[™] and TFEDMA, Yarovenko's and Ishikawa's reagents

- In 2010, Umemoto and co-workers introduced the second generation PhSF₃, which is marketed as Fluolead[™]
- More chemically stable than PhSF₃, and more more thermally stable than DAST because of the stronger C-S bond in Fluolead[™]
- Ishikawa's, Yarovenko's, and TFDMA reagents fluorinate a wide range of primary and secondary alcohols to provide alkyl fluorides
- There reagents are generally prepared by the addition of Et₂NH to the corresponding halogenated alkene
- This group of reagents can suffer from formation of ester and amide side products



(a) Umemoto, T.; Singh, R. P.; Xu, Y.; Saito, N. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2010**, 132, 18199. (b) Takaoka, A.; Iwakiri, H.; Ishikawa, N. Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. **1979**, 52, 3377. (c) Petrov, V. A.; Swearingen, S.; Hong, W.; Petersen, W. C. J. Fluorine Chem. **2001**, 109, 25. (d) Yarovenko, N. N.; Raksha, M. S. Zh. Obshch. Khim. **1959**, 29, 2159.



Deoxyfluorination Reagent: PhenoFluor



- PhenoFluor was first reported by Ritter and co-workers in 2011 for deoxyfluorination of phenols
- PhenoFluor is commercially available from Sigma-Aldrich
- PhenoFluor is a crystalline, nonexplosive solid that can be handled in air, but hydrolyzes upon prolonged storage in a wet atmosphere
- PhenoFluor can be stored in a dry toluene solution for at least 2 months without detectable decomposition



Tang, P.; Wang, W.; Ritter, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 11482-11484. Tang, P.; Wang, W.; Ritter, T. WO 2012/142162

PhenoFluor: Proposed Mechanism

• Ritter and co-workers propose that the mechanism for fluorination proceeds via a 2phenoxyimidazolium bifluoride salt



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PhenoFluor: Hydrogen Bonding



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Title Paper: Deoxyfluorination of Aliphatic Alcohols

 Modifications of the initial reaction conditions allowed for the deoxyfluorination of aliphatic alcohols



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Title Paper: Late-Stage Deoxyfluorination of Alcohols



Chiral secondary alcohols could typically be deoxyfluorinated with inversion
 Carbonyl functional groups are well tolerated

Sladojevich, F.; Arlow, S. I.; Tang, P.; Wang, W.; Ritter, T. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2012, ASAP. DOI: 10.1021/ja3125405

Title Paper: Late-Stage Deoxyfluorination of Alcohols



- Secondary allylic alcohols afforded allylic fluorides consistent with an S_N^2 mechanism
- Deoxyfluorination is site-selective and predictable

Title Paper: Site-Selective Late-Stage Deoxyfluorination of Alcohols



- Deoxyfluorination can be carried out at room temperature, allowing for fluorination of temperature sensitive substrates
- KF was not required

Title Paper: Site-Selective Late-Stage Deoxyfluorination of Alcohols



- Primary alcohols are selectively deoxyfluorinated
- Secondary alcohols react slower or not at all when they are β , β '-dibranched, unless it is allylic
- Hydroxyl groups engaged in hydrogen bonding are not reactive
- Tertiary alcohols do not react, unless they are allylic

Deoxyfluorination with PhenoFluor: Mechanistic Considerations



- The formation of elimination products could be reduced by increasing the reaction temperature from 23 °C to 80 °C
- The addition of DIPEA was beneficial to shorten the reaction time
- KF was found to reduce side products resulting from elimination, but was not generally required for the reaction to proceed

Conclusions and Outlook

• A general method for selective, late-stage deoxyfluorination of complex aliphatic alcohols has been developed



- The substrate scope and functional group tolerance of this methodology surpass all others reported to date
- PhenoFluor has a better safety profile and higher chemoselectivity than other deoxyfluorination reagents
- One drawback is the molar mass (427 g/mol), which is convenient for subgram- and gram-scale reactions, but is wasteful for larger-scale reactions
- Extending this method to late-stage ¹⁸F radiolabeling would be useful for positron emission tomography (PET) applications



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