#### **Chemoselective Amide Ligations by Decarboxylative Condensations of** *N***-Alkylhydroxylamines and** α**-Ketoacids**

Bode, J. M.; Fox, R. M.; Baucom, K. D. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 1248-1252.



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## Introduction: Ligation Reactions

An ideal ligation process:

Chemoselective covalent bond formation between two fragments

containing unprotected functional groups

Mild (often aqueous) conditions

Low molar concentrations of reactants

No need for reagents or catalysts

No production of chemical by-products

#### Ligation of Azides and Terminal Alkynes



Sharpless, K. B. et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 2596-2599.

## Reaction Scope



\* All reactions were carried out in water with tert-butyl alcohol as cosolvent,  $0.25 \pm 0.5$  in reactants, with 1 mol% of CuSO<sub>4</sub> and 10 mol% of sodium ascorbate, and were complete in  $12 \pm 24$  h.



Sharpless, K. B. et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 2596-2599.

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### Application in Medicinal Chemistry

Acetylcholinesterase (AChE): key enzyme in neurotransmitter hydrolysis and target for Alzheimer's dementia



Sharpless, K. B. et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 1053-1057.

Inhibitor	$k_{on}$ $[10^{10}$ M <sup>-1</sup> min <sup>-1</sup> ]	$k_{\text{off}}$ $\lceil \text{min}^{-1} \rceil$	$K_d$	AChE source
syn-1	1.5	0.0015	99 fm	E. electricus
	1.3	0.0011	77 fm	T. californica
	1.3	0.0079	410 fm	mouse
anti-1	1.8	0.25	14000 fm	E. electricus
	3.2	0.026	720 fm	T. californica
	2.4	0.30	8900 fm	mouse
tacrine <sup>[38]</sup>	0.78	138	18nM	mouse
propidium <sup>[38]</sup>	1.4	15000	1100 n M	mouse
huprine X <sup>[55]</sup>	0.044	0.009	26 рм	human
ambenonium[35]	0.31	0.78	250 рм	human

A Comparison of the Inhibitory Activities



Sharpless, K. B. et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 1053-1057.

#### Other Common Ligation Techniques



Rademann, J. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 4554-4556.

## Current Paper: Chemoselective Amide Ligation

*Reaction Discovery*



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#### Reaction Optimization



Table 1: Reaction conditions for amide formation from hydroxylamine 1 and  $\alpha$ -ketoacid 2.



[a] All reaction performed on a 0.2 mmol scale; [b] Yields following chromatography; [c] HPLC yields of unpurified reaction mixtures given in parentheses.

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A Racemization/Epimerization-Free Process



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### Reaction Scope



Table 2: Ketoacid-hydroxylamine peptide ligations of selected protected- and unprotected-peptide substrates.



[a] All reaction performed at 0.02-0.1 m in DMF or DMSO containing ca. 5% H<sub>2</sub>O at 40°C for 10-24 h using 1 equiv ketoacid and 1.2-2 equiv hydroxylamine oxalates; [b] Yields of pure products following preparative TLC or RP-HPLC. The reported yields include the preparation of the ketoacids by oxidation of the appropriate cyanoylide followed by coupling with the hydroxylamine; [c] 0.01 m, 48 h.

#### Bode, J. M.; Fox, R. M.; Baucom, K. D. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 1248-1252.

#### Reaction Mechanism



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#### Reaction with Substituted Hydroxylamine



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#### Synthesis of the  $\alpha$ -Ketoacids



Table 1. Synthesis of a-Keto Acids, Esters, and Amides from Carboxylic Acids

	$R - CO2H$ 12	CN. PPh <sub>3</sub>	EDCI, DMAP $CH2Cl2$ , rt	.CN O <sub>3</sub> , -78° C я PPh <sub>3</sub> solvent/NuH 13	Nυ Е 14	
		ketocyano ylide			$\alpha$ -keto acid, esters, and amides <sup>a</sup>	
entry	$_{\rm RCO_2H}$ 12	13	yield (%)	solvent/NuH	14	yield (%)
	$Cbz-HN-(CH2)11-CO2H (12a)$	13а	78	$(7:3) CH2Cl2 - MeOH$	$14a$ (Nu = OMe)	83
	$HO-CH2)11-CO2H(12b)$	13Ь	ь	$(7:3)$ $CH_2Cl_2-MeOH$	$14b$ (Nu = OMe)	85
	Boc-Phe-OH (12c)	13c	80	$CH_2Cl_2/(4/1)$ THF-H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>c</sup>	14c (Nu = $OH$ ) <sup>d</sup>	74
	Boc-Phe-OH (12c)	13c	80	$(7:3)$ $CH_2Cl_2-MeOH$	14d $(Nu = OMe)$	89
	$Cbz-Gly-Gly-OH (12e)$	13e	59	$(7:3)$ $CH2Cl2–MeOH$	14e ( $Nu = OMe$ )	74
	Cbz-Ala-Gly-Gly-OH (12f)	13f	64	$(7:3)$ $CH2Cl2 - MeOH$	$14f(Nu = OMe)$	88
	Boc-Phe-OH (12c)	13c	80	$CH_2Cl_2/Phe-OEt^{c,e}$	$14g$ (Nu = Phe-OEt)	63
	$Boc-Phe-OH(12c)$	13c	80	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> /Leu-OMe <sup>c</sup> //Pr <sub>2</sub> NEt	$14h$ (Nu = Leu-OMe)	58

Wasserman, H. H.; Ho, W. B. *J. Org. Chem.* **1994**, *59*, 4364-4366.

# Synthesis of Hydroxylamine



<sup>a</sup>Conditions A. ClCH<sub>2</sub>CN (1.5 eq), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 eq), CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 60°C; Conditions B. BrCH<sub>2</sub>CN (1.5 eq), i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (2.0 eq), CH<sub>3</sub>CN, rt; Conditions C. ICH<sub>2</sub>CN (2.0 eq),  $K_2CO_3$  (2.5 eq), DMF, rt. <sup>b</sup>HCl salt of amine was used.  ${}^{\text{c}}\text{BrCH}_2CN$  (1.3 eq), i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (3.0 eq).  ${}^{d}BrCH_2CN$  (1.2 eq), i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (2.0 eq). eBrCH<sub>2</sub>CN (2.0 eq), i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (3.0 eq).

Tokuyama, H.; Kuboyama, T.; Fukuyama, T. *Org. Syn*. **2003**, *80*, 207 – 218.

## Summary

- $\triangleright$  A powerful and chemoselective amide bond formation reaction that proceeds in the presences of reactive functional groups is developed.
- No reagents or catalysts are needed.
- $\triangleright$  Water and CO<sub>2</sub> are the only by-products.
- Unprotected amino acids or peptides can be coupled directly.
- $\triangleright$ Preparation of the reactive  $\alpha$ -ketoacids is the major draw-back.