Catalytic C-H Activation and Functionalization: Some Applications in Organic Synthesis

Yeeman Ramtohul Literature Presentation May 24, 2004 8 pm, 147 Noyes



Outline

I. Introduction

II. Types of C-H Activation

- **III. Oxidation of Alkanes**
- IV. Ru and Rh Addition of C-H Bond to Double Bonds
- V. Ru and Rh Hydroacylation of Aldehydes
- VI. Hydroiminoacylation
- · General referrences
- Kakiuchi and Chatani Adv. Synth. Catal. 2003, 345, 1077
- Jun et. al. Chem. Eur. J. 2002, 8, 2423
- Sen and Remias J. Mol. Cat. A: Chemical 2002, 189, 33
- Crabtree J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans., 2001, 17, 2437
- Sen A. Topics in Organomet. Chem., Vol 3, 1999 (whole issue)
- Shul'pin and Shilov Chem Rev. 1997, 97, 2879



R. H. Crabtree, Yale



R. G. Bergman, UC Berkley



Shinji Murai, Osaka University

C-H Bond Activation

- C-H bonds are ubiquitous in organic compounds. If can be used as functional group similar as C-X bond, it would become a powerful tool for producing C-C bond.
- First example of C-H activation
- C-H bond cleavage in azobenzene by Cp₂Ni complex



Kleiman, Dubeck JACS 1963, 85, 1544

Oxidative addition of a C-H bond to Ru(0) complex



Chatt and Davidson *J. Chem Soc.* **1965**, 843 Kakiuchi and Chatani A*dv. Synth. Catal.* **2003**, *345*, 1077

Types of C-H bond Cleavage

- Three main types of C-H bond cleavage based on their mechanism
- 1) "True" Activation

Processes where an organometallic, i.e. M-C σ-bond is formed as an intermediate or final product. This involves
oxidative addition of the C-H bond to low-valent metal center or an electrophilic substitution.

- Promoted by transition metal whose most stable oxidation state differ by 2e



Types of C-H bond Cleavage

 No direct contact between the metal and the C-H bond, i.e. metal complex cleaves a C-H bond but no σ-C-M bond is directly generated at any stage.

- The metal complex abstracts an e or a H atom to form radical ions RH or R which interact with other species such as oxygen.

- E.g. Hydroxylation of an alkane by an oxo complex, MnO_4^- and CrO_4^{2-} , not very selective because involves free radicals

 $RH + O=M^{n+} \longrightarrow R^{*} + HO - M^{(n-1)+} \longrightarrow ROH + M^{(n-2)+}$

- Nature's preferred route to alkane oxidation using cytochrome P₄₅₀, believed to proceed through porphyrino-Fe(IV)-O

complex

- High specificity observed in enzymatic system is presumably due to steric restrains

- Plausible mechanism



Shul'pin and Shilov Chem Rev. 1997, 97, 2879

Types of C-H bond Cleavage

3) When a metal complex promotes the formation of a reactive species which then attacks the C-H bond - Metal compex activates some other reactants (e.g. O_2 or H_2O_2) to form a reactive species usually a radical, such as

- hydroxyl radical which then attacks the hydrocarbon independent of any participation of the metal complex.
- E.g. Oxidation of alkanes by Fenton's reagent

⁻ Fenton's reaction is one of the most powerful oxidizing reaction known.



- If reaction is carried to completion, then CO₂ and H₂O are usually obtained



World primary energy demand



Courtesy of Jonathan Owen

International Energy Association, 2004

Natural Gas Transportation is Costly



- CH₄ major constituent of natural gas with 5-10% ethane

- The energy efficiency of natural gas liquefaction and
- regasification add to the cost of methane production.
- Pipelines are roughly \$1M/km to build.



 $CH_{4(g)} + H_2O_{(g)} \xrightarrow{[Ni], \Delta} CO_{(g)} + 3 H_{2(g)} \Delta H^{\circ} = 49.3 \text{ kcal/mol}$

CO_(g) + 2 H_{2(g)} [Cu/ZnO] CH₃OH_(g) ΔH° = -21.7 kcal/mol [M] ____ C_nH_{2n+2} nCO + n+1 H₂ СН₃ОН [О]

Multistep processes as well as high capital costs make these processes inefficient.

 $\Delta H^{\circ} = -30.7 \text{ kcal/mol}$ CH_{4(g)} + 1/2 O_{2(g)} -----> CH₃OH_(l)

- Direct and low temperature transformation of methane or other hydrocarbons to their oxygenates (via C-H activation and functionalization) is of considerable interest and remains a challenge to chemists.

Sen A. Topics in Organomet. Chem., Vol 3, 1999, 81



Aerobic Methane Oxidation

- Inertness of alkanes old name "paraffins" latin name parum affinis (without affinity)
- Bergman "Referred to the selective activation of C-H bonds of saturated alkanes as one of the last remaining Holy Grails of synthetic chemistry."
- Main limitation is the high bond energy of C-H bonds, methane (104 Kcal/mol) and benzene (110 Kcal/mol)



- Selectivity is usually low due to overoxidation, intermediates are more reactive than the alkane and high temperature used promotes oxidation of the intermediates
- C-H BDE energies parallel relative reactivity in H-atom abstraction reactions, 3° > 2° > 1°
- Low temperature process and metal catalyzed oxidation procedures are desired
- Transition metals whose stable oxidation states differ by 2e⁻ often promote non-radical pathway even in the presence of dioxygen

Sen A. Topics in Organomet. Chem., Vol 3, **1999**, 81 Wolff ACIE **1998**, *37*, 33

Palladium-Catalyzed Aerobic Oxidation of Alkanes

- Palladium mediated aerobic oxidation of methane to formic acid in the presence of CO
- Also oxidation of ethane to acetic acid
- CuCl₂ and TFA as additive the alcohol and its ester became the major products
- CuCl was detected in the reaction mixture

 C_2H_6 + CO + O_2 + H_2O 500 psi 100 psi 100 psi (psi) 500 psi (psi)

- Initial step involves water gas shift reaction

- Oxidation of Pd(0) to Pd(II) generates free peroxide oxidant (O₂²⁻ or H₂O₂)

- No oxidation in the absence of CO

- CO can be replaced by H₂

- Slow Pd-catalyzed oxidation of ethane to ethanol, acetic acid and formic acid by H2O2 at 30 °C



Sen and Li JACS 1992, 114, 7307 Sen et.al. JACS 1997, 119, 6048

C-H Bond Activation of Methane to Methanol

- Highly efficient process with 90% conversion and 81% selectivity into methyl hydrogensulfate in 102% H₂SO₄ at 220 °C



- Reaction mechanism

- Pt complex remains stable for over 50 h at 200 °C in oleum



Aerobic Oxidation of Cyclohexane to Adipic Acid

Adipic acid in the production of nylon 6,6
 ~2.3 million metric tons of adipic acid produced anually worldwide, 42% produced in the US



Reimer et. al. Environmental Progress 1994, 9, 237

The Barton Challege

- Devised by John D. Roberts in honor of the late Derek Barton
- It consists of \$5,000 prize for a chemical systems that converts n-hexanes to adipic acid with 85% yield based on alkane consumption

Chem. Eng. News. 1999, Jan 4, 24



Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

- 1993 Murai reported the first highly efficient and selective functionalization of C-H bonds in aromatic ketones with a Ru complex via chelation assistance



Other directing groups include esters, aldehydes, aldimines, ketimines, amidinates, hydrazones and nitriles
 Reaction tolerant of a variety of functional group, NMe₂, OMe, F, NEt, C(O)Me, CF₃, CO₂Et, CN, acetals

- Regioselectivity is generally controlled by steric factor



Murai et. al. *Nature* **1993**, *366*, 529 kakiuchi et. al. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2003**, *345*, 1077

Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

• 2 plausible mechanism of C-H bond cleavage

- Usual oxidative addition: concerted pathway



- Unusual oxidative addition: stepwise pathway



E_A = 1.8-3.0 Kcal/mol

Murai et. al. Bull Chem Soc. Jpn 1995, 68, 62

Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

- Deuterium-labeling experiment provides information about the rate determining step
 Higher temperature, complete scrambling D/H 2 *ortho* and 3 olefinic positions
 Lower temperaure, no product formed, some D/H scrambling
 C-H bond cleavage is facile and not rate limiting step
 Chelation of Ru with carbonyl promotes C-H activation



Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

- H/D scrambling suggests a rapid equilibrium prior to reductive elimination
 C-H bond cleavage is facile
 reductive elimination is the rate-determining step
- β-Hydride elimination step is fast and reversible



Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

C-H insertion with Rh complex proceeds without coordination with the carbonyl group
 C-C bond formation occured only at the *ortho* position



Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

- Deuterium-labeling experiment provides mechanistic information
- H/D exchange occured only at meta and para positions
- Chelation of Rh with carbonyl not a requirement for C-H activation
- Plausible explanations activation of the meta and para C-H bonds followed by olefin insertion is reversible
 Energy barrier for the oxidative addition of the ortho C-H is much higher than meta or para
- Barrier for reductive elimination is apparently reduced by chelation with the carbonyl





- Oxidative addition/migratory insertion occurs reversibly but a chelate of the carbonyl with Rh renders the methylene hydrogens diastereotopic and therefore the deuterium which migrates to the olefin must, by microscopic reversibility, also return to the Rh in the reverse β -hydride elimination step.



Brookhart and Lenges JACS 1999, 121, 6616

Addition of C-H bond to C=C bonds

· Application to natural product synthesis - diterpenoid analogue



Harris and Woodgate J. Organomet. Chem. 1996, 506, 339

· β-Olefinic C-H of enones also reacts



• Hydroacylation of aldehydes - Tsuji observed that aldehydes are decarbonylated by stoichiometric RhCl(PPh_3)_3



Hydroacylation of aldehydes via C-H Activation

· Mechanism of hydroacylation of aldehydes



Application to carbohydrate analogue synthesis



Gable and Benz TL, 1991, 3473

Resolution of racemic enals

- Attempted decarbonylation of the racemic aldehydes to chiral hydrocarbons gave cyclized product



James and Young Chem. Commun. 1983, 1215

Hydroacylation of aldehydes via C-H Activation



- Steric repulsion between R and H is smaller than R and Cl

- Steric repulsion between R and the phosphine ligands controls the enantiofacial selection



Sakai et. al. TL 1992, 33, 6331

· Intermolecular hydroacylation of olefins

- Intra- and intermolecular reactions depend on the choice of the catalyst used





Miller J. Organomet. Chem. 1980, 192, 257

84%

 Ru complex also works - CO atm is used to stabilize the catalyst and suppress decarbonylation



Watanabe JOC 1990, 55, 1286

Hydroacylation of aldehydes via C-H Activation

Intermolecular hydroacylation of olefins not always high yielding due to competing decarbonylation
 High pressure of CO and ethylene are usually used to stabilize the acyl metal hydride complex
 Reaction lack generality due to reaction conditions and limitations of olefins that can be used

· 2-(Diphenyl phosphino) benzaldehyde

- 8-Quinolinecarboxaldehyde

- Chelation-assisted C-H activation - requires coordination site to facilitate access of the metal to the C-H bond



Jun et. al. Bull. Korean Chem. Soc. 1995, 16, 66



10% Cat. - 32% Stoichiometric - 78%

Jun et. al. *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *15*, 204 Jun et. al. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2002**, *8*, 2423

Hydroacylation utilizing 2-amino-3-picoline as chelation auxiliary



Jun et. al. JOC 1997, 62, 1200

Hydroacylation with 1° Alcohols and Amines

• Primary alcohols can be oxidized in situ to the aldehydes by hydrogen transfer



Jun et. al. ACIE 1998, 37, 145





Jun et. al. Org. lett. 2001, 5, 785

Cleavage of Triple bonds via Hydroiminoacylation

Hydroacylation of aliphatic aldehydes to dialkyl ketones is problematic presumably due to aldol side reactions
 An alternative is Allyamine derivative of 2-amino-3-picoline which can readily be isomerized by a metal to its aldimine



Summary

- Catalytic C-H functionalization is one of the simplest and most powerful methods in organic chemistry
- C-H/olefin, C-H/acetylene, C-H/CO/olefin, C-H aldehyde couplings exhibit high selectivity and efficiency and are valuable synthetic tool in organic chemistry
- Rapid growth of this research area, but the application to complex molecule synthesis is slow