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[Lab. of Pharm. Chemistry]

Chalcogenide-TiCl₄-mediated Reactions of *S*-Ethyl Thioacrylate with Aldehydes.

Tadashi KATAOKA,* Tetsuo IWAMA, Hironori KINOSHITA, Yasuo TSURUKAMI, Shin-ichiro TSUJIYAMA, Masaru FUJITA, Eiji HONDA, Tatsunori IWAMURA and Shin-ichi WATANABE

The reaction of *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (**1a**) with *S*-ethyl thioacrylate (**2**) catalyzed by chalcogenide-TiCl₄ gave a mixture of Baylis-Hillman adduct **3a** and *syn*- and *anti*-2-(chloromethyl)-3-hydroxy-3-(*p*-nitrophenyl)propanethioates **4a** in the ratio of **3:syn-4:anti-4**=5:65:30. The crude product obtained from the reaction of *p*-trifluoromethyl derivative **1b** with **2** was treated with 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) in toluene to give **3** (71% overall yield), while treatment of the crude product with Ti(O-*i*-Pr)₄ afforded isopropyl 2-(α -hydroxy-*p*-trifluoromethylbenzyl)acrylate **5** (49%), *S*-ethyl 2-(ethylthiomethyl)-3-hydroxy-3-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenyl)thiopropionate **6** (2%) and *S*-ethyl 2-(chloromethyl)-3-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenyl)thioacrylate **7** (15%). Reactions of **2** with other various aldehydes followed by the treatment with DBU or Ti(O-*i*-Pr)₄ gave the thioacrylates **3** and isopropyl acrylates **5**, respectively in fair to good yields. The formation mechanism for 2-(chloromethyl)propanethioate **4** is discussed.

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[Lab. of Pharm. Chemistry]

A Novel Synthesis of 1,2-Dialkylthio- and 2-Alkoxy-1-alkylthioethenes from β -Arylthioalkenylselenonium Salts and Its Application to the Synthesis of Medium-Membered Heterocycles Containing S and O Atoms.

Shin-ichi WATANABE, Eiji MORI, Hirotada NAGAI and Tadashi KATAOKA*

The treatment of alkynylselenonium salts and thiophenol derivatives with a catalytic amount of triethylamine afforded β -arylthiovinylselenonium salts in good yields. The reactions of the vinylselenonium salts with nucleophiles produced (*Z*)- β -arylthio- α -functionalized ethenes in high yields. In addition, the vinylselenonium salts bearing a hydroxy group underwent intramolecular cyclization upon treatment with sodium hydride to produce medium-membered heterocyclic compounds containing S and O atoms.

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[Lab. of Pharm. Chemistry]

The First Aryne Evolution from the Reactions of Selenonium Salts with Aryllithiums.

Shin-ichi WATANABE, Keiichirou YAMAMOTO, Yukiko ITAGAKI, Tatsunori IWAMURA, Tetsuo IWAMA and Tadashi KATAOKA*

The first example of the benzyne generation was found in the reactions of diphenyl(phenylethynyl)selenonium triflate with 1.0 equivalent of phenyllithium in THF at room temperature for 3 h. The formation of the aryne intermediate was confirmed in the reactions of ditolyl(phenylethynyl)selenonium triflate and tri-*p*-tolylselenonium triflate with tolyllithium, which gave a mixture of 2-(phenylethynyl)-5,4'-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl **18** and 2-(phenylethynyl)-4,4'-dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl **19** in 19% yield (**18:19** = 11:8) and a mixture of 4,4'-dimethyl-biphenyl **28** and 3,4'-dimethyl-biphenyl **29** in 63% yield (**28:29** = 2:1), respectively. The reaction mechanisms of these reactions are discussed.

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[Lab. of Pharm. Chemistry]

Reexamination of Products and the Reaction Mechanism of the Chalcogeno-Baylis-Hillman Reaction: Chalcogenide-TiCl₄-mediated Reactions of Electron-deficient Alkenes with Aldehydes.

Tadashi KATAOKA,* Hironori KINOSHITA, Tetsuo IWAMA, Shin-ichiro TSUJIYAMA, Tatsunori IWAMURA, Shin-ichi WATANABE, Osamu MURAOKA and Genzoh TANABE

Reactions of *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (**4**) with methyl vinyl ketone (**5**) were conducted in the presence of TiCl₄ and dimethyl sulfide (**3**) or selenopyranone **6**. When the raw product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, α -chloromethyl aldol **8** was obtained as a mixture of diastereoisomers **8a** and **8b**. In contrast, purification of the raw product by preparative TLC on silica gel gave α -methylene aldol **7**. The mechanism for the formation of α -chloromethyl aldol **8** and diastereoselection for the *syn*-isomer **8a** and *anti*-isomer **8b** are discussed.