On the nature of the oxidative heterocoupling of lithium enolates

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Instrumentation

Proton, carbon, and lithium NMR were recorded on a Bruker 500 MHz spectrometer. GC-MS analyses were performed with an HP 5890 Series II Gas Chromatograph with an HP Mass Selector Detector. LC-HRMS data were recorded at the Mass Spectrometry Facility at Notre Dame University. Column chromatography was performed using the automated CombiFlash® Rf system from Teledyne Isco, Inc. Products were separated using prepacked silica gel columns with a gradient elution of either ethyl acetate:hexanes or diethyl ether:hexanes.

Materials for ⁷Li NMR experiments

THF was purified with a Pure Solv solvent purification system from Innovative Technology, Inc. Toluene was degassed with argon for 1 hour and then stored over activated 3 Å molecular sieves under an inert atmosphere. A stock solution of 2.0M THF/toluene was prepared by diluting 8.1 mL of THF to a final volume of 50 mL with toluene. LiHMDS was purchased from Sigma Aldrich as a white solid and used without further purification. All ketones were purchased from Alfa Aesar or Acros Organics and purified by short-path distillation, recrystallization from *n*-pentane, or column chromatography prior to use. As a reference and locking signal, 0.3M LiCl in CD₃OD was prepared and flame-sealed inside melting point capillaries. All solutions and substrates were stored inside a glovebox filled with argon.

Materials for oxidative heterocoupling reactions

THF was purified with a Pure Solv solvent purification system from Innovative Technology, Inc. LiHMDS was purchased from Sigma Aldrich as a white solid and used without further purification. All ketones were purchased from Alfa Aesar or Acros Organics and purified by short-path distillation, recrystallization from *n*-pentane, or column chromatography

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prior to use. Molecular iodine was purchased from Acros Organics and used without further purification. Anhydrous *N*,*N*-dimethylforamide (DMF) was purchased from Acros Organics.

General procedure for the determination of lithium enolate aggregation

All glassware was flame-dried before use. Two portions of LiHMDS (0.304 mmol each) were dissolved in 0.5 mL of 2.0M THF/toluene each in septated vials with magnetic stirrers and cooled to -10 °C. Ketone A and ketone B (0.3 mmol each) were dissolved separately in 0.5 mL 2.0M THF/toluene and added dropwise to one of the vials of LiHMDS. The two solutions were stirred at -10 °C for 45 minutes. The enolate solutions were then cooled to -78 °C, combined via syringe (stirred for 5 minutes), warmed to -10 °C (stirred for 5 minutes), and recooled to -78 °C. The solution was transferred to a septated NMR tube containing a sealed insert (0.3M LiCl in CD_3OD). The sample temperature was maintained at -78 °C until it was placed in the NMR spectrometer (NMR probe temperature was -30 °C). The sample was locked and shimmed (extensively) using the CD₃OD. A pre-thermal equilibrated ⁷Li NMR spectrum was obtained for the sample at -30 °C. The NMR tube was then ejected from the spectrometer, warmed in-hand for 2 minutes, recooled to -30 °C inside the spectrometer, and the ⁷Li NMR spectrum was recorded again. The peaks were then integrated with the signal corresponding to the A₄ aggregate set to a value of 1. The shift values are reported relative to the signal for LiCl (0.00 ppm). For all equimolar enolate mixtures reported, the lithium aggregates were ensembles of tetramers $(A_4 : A_3B_1 : A_2B_2 : A_1B_3 : B_4)$ consistent with those reported by Collum *et al.* (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, 130, 4859).

General procedure for the oxidative heterocoupling of lithium enolates

All glassware was flame-dried before use. The ketone substrates (0.3 mmol of each) were dissolved together in 1.0 mL of THF in a septated vial with a magnetic stirrer. The vial

was then cooled to -10 °C. LiHMDS (0.64 mmol) was dissolved in 1.0 mL of THF and added dropwise to the solution of ketones. The solution was stirred at -10 °C for 45 minutes. The enolate solution was placed in a water bath at room temperature (stirred for 5 minutes) and then cooled to -78 °C. Molecular iodine (0.3 mmol) was dissolved in 1.0 mL of THF and added to the enolate solution dropwise via syringe with vigorous stirring. The reaction solution was removed from the -78 °C bath and allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over 30 minutes. The reaction was quenched with an equal volume of brine, separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, rotary evaporated to dryness, and the crude reaction mixture was redissolved in CDCl₃. DMF (0.3 mmol) was added. Product yields and ratios (heterocoupled product:homocoupled product) were determined by ¹H NMR. The heterocoupled products were purified via automated flash chromatography and characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, GC-MS, and LC-HRMS.

⁷Li NMR spectra of lithium enolate aggregates

5-Methoxy1-indanone (**A**) with pinacolone (**B**)

Procedure 5.2.3.1 was followed. ⁷Li NMR (2.0M THF/toluene, 194 MHz, shifts relative to 0.3M LiCl in CD₃OD) – δ 1.18 (A₃B₁), 1.12 (A₄), 0.79 (A₂B₂), 0.69 (A₃B₁), 0.27 (A₁B₃), 0.24 (A₂B₂), -0.03 (A₁B₃), -0.07 (B₄).

5-Bromo-1-indanone (A) and pinacolone (B)

Procedure 5.2.3.1 was followed. ⁷Li NMR (2.0M THF/toluene, 194 MHz, shifts relative to 0.3M LiCl in CD₃OD) – δ 0.99 (A₃B₁), 0.88 (A₄), 0.66 (A₂B₂), 0.51 (A₃B₁), 0.20 (A₁B₃), 0.12 (A₂B₂), -0.06 (B₄), -0.09 (A₁B₃).

1-Indanone (**A**) and pinacolone (**B**)

Procedure 5.2.3.1 was followed. ⁷Li NMR (2.0M THF/toluene, 194 MHz, shifts relative to 0.3M LiCl in CD₃OD) – δ 1.21 (A₃B₁), 1.13 (A₄), 0.80 (A₂B₂), 0.69 (A₃B₁), 0.28 (A₁B₃), 0.24 (A₂B₂), -0.04 (A₁B₃), -0.07 (B₄).

4-Chromanone (A) and pinacolone (B)

Procedure 5.2.3.1 was followed. ⁷Li NMR (2.0M THF/toluene, 194 MHz, shifts relative to 0.3M LiCl in CD₃OD) – δ 0.78 (A₃B₁), 0.73 (A₄), 0.60 (A₂B₂), 0.44 (A₃B₁), 0.20 (A₁B₃), 0.06 (A₂B₂), -0.07 (B₄), -0.17 (A₁B₃).

1-Tetralone (A) and pinacolone (B)

Procedure 5.2.3.1 was followed. ⁷Li NMR (2.0M THF/toluene, 194 MHz, shifts relative to 0.3M LiCl in CD₃OD) – δ 0.97 (A₃B₁), 0.95 (A₄), 0.70 (A₂B₂), 0.61 (A₃B₁), 0.27 (A₁B₃), 0.19 (A₂B₂), -0.06 (A₁B₃), -0.10 (B₄).

Synthesis and spectral data for heteocoupled products

2-(3,3-Dimethyl-2-oxobutyl)-5-methoxy-indan-1-one (12)

Procedure 5.2.3.2 was followed. Clear, colorless oil. 62% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) – δ 7.68-7.63 (m, 1H), 6.89-6.84 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.81 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.38 (dd, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz, 17.7 Hz), 3.16 (dd, 1H, J = 3.4 Hz, 18.3 Hz), 3.01-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.75 (dd, 1H, 9.5 Hz, 18.3 Hz), 2.56 (dd, 1H, J = 4.2 Hz, 17.2 Hz), 1.13 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) – δ 214.2, 206.3, 165.3, 156.5, 129.8, 125.4, 115.3, 109.5, 55.6, 43.9, 43.0, 38.4, 33.6, 26.4. MS [*m*/*z* (rel int)] 260 (M⁺, 9), 203 (22), 175 (100), 161 (10), 147 (36), 131 (9), 115 (13), 103 (11), 91 (12), 77 (9), 57 (31). LC-HRMS calcd. for C₁₆H₂₁O₃ [M+H] 261.1485, found 261.1480.

5-Bromo-2-(3,3-dimethyl-2-oxobutyl)-indan-1-one (13)

Procedure 5.2.3.2 was followed. Light yellow oil. 58% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) – δ 7.63-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 3.39 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 17.3 Hz), 3.18 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 17.7 Hz), 2.97-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.88 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 18.0 Hz), 2.64 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 17.5 Hz) 1.14 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) – δ 213.9, 206.8, 155.0, 135.5, 131.0, 130.0, 129.8, 125.0, 43.9, 43.0, 38.0, 33.0, 26.5. MS [*m*/*z* (rel int)] 308/310 (M⁺, 9), 251/253 (29), 223/225 (76), 145 (22), 115 (88), 89 (21), 57 (100). LC-HRMS calcd. for C₁₅H₁₈BrO₂ [M+H] 309.0485, found 309.0462.

2-(3,3-Dimethyl-2-oxobutyl)-indan-1-one (14)

Procedure 5.2.3.2 was followed. Clear, colorless oil. 62% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) – δ 7.80-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 1H), 3.46 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 17.2 Hz), 3.22 (dd, 1H, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 18.5 Hz), 3.05-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.86 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 18.5 Hz), 2.67 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 17.6 Hz), 1.18 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) – δ 214.1, 208.2, 153.5, 136.6, 134.7, 127.4, 126.5, 123.8, 44.0, 43.0, 38.2, 33.5, 26.5. MS [*m*/*z* (rel int)] 230 (M⁺, 8), 173 (16), 145 (100), 131 (11), 115 (67), 91 (21), 57 (27). LC-HRMS calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉O₂ [M+H] 231.1380, found 231.1383.

3-(3,3-Dimethyl-2-oxobutyl)-chroman-4-one (15)

Procedure 5.2.3.2 was followed. Off-white solid. 46% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) – δ 7.88-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.03-6.97 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.92 (m, 1H), 4.48 (dd, 1H, J = 5.2 Hz, 11.1 Hz), 4.20 (t, 1H, J = 11.3 Hz), 3.42-3.35 (m, 1H), 3.10 (dd, 1H, J = 4.4 Hz, 18.4 Hz), 2.57 (dd, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, 18.1 Hz), 1.18 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) – δ 212.9, 193.7, 161.8, 135.9, 127.3, 121.4, 120.7, 117.8, 70.3, 44.3, 41.7, 32.6, 26.5. MS [m/z (rel

int)] 246 (M⁺, 3), 189 (100), 171 (9), 161 (24), 147 (40), 133 (6), 121 (16), 92 (14), 57 (36). LC-HRMS calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉O₃ [M+H] 247.1329, found 247.1330.

2-(3,3-Dimethyl-2-oxobutyl)-tetral-1-one (16)

Procedure 5.2.3.2 was followed. Light yellow oil. 47% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) – δ 8.01-7.96 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 3.26 (dd, 1H, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 18.0 Hz), 3.17-3.06 (m, 2H), 2.96-2.89 (m, 1H), 2.56 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 18.1 Hz), 2.15-2.08 (m, 1H), 1.89 (dddd, 1H, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 12.9 Hz, 13.7 Hz, 13.1 Hz) 1.19 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) – δ 214.2, 199.3, 144.1, 133.2, 132.4, 128.7, 127.4, 126.6, 44.2, 43.8, 37.4, 29.4, 26.5. MS [*m*/*z* (rel int)] 244 (M⁺, 1) 187 (100), 169 (16), 159 (5), 145 (11), 131 (27), 115 (11), 91 (16), 57 (21). LC-HRMS calcd. for C₁₆H₂₁O₂ [M+H] 245.1536, found 245.1519.

Impact of heteroaggregation on the oxidative heterocoupling of lithium enolates



⁷Li NMR spetra of lithium enolate aggregates











¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of heterocoupled products











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