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TETRAHEDRON LETTERS

1,3-Addition of silyl enol ethers to nitrones catalyzed by mesoporous aluminosilicate

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Abstract— Mesoporous aluminosilicate (Al-MCM-41) was found to be an effective and reusable catalyst for 1,3-addition of silyl enol ethers to nitrones. The reaction proceeded under mild reaction conditions to afford the corresponding β -(siloxyamino)ketones in high yields. Furthermore, a unique chemoselectivity of a nitrone over an aldehyde and an acetal, which are more reactive toward silyl enol ether in the presence of Al-MCM-41 than a nitrone, was observed.

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Keywords: Al-MCM-41; Solid acid catalyst; 1,3-Addition of nitrones; Chemoselective reaction

Nitrones are generally used for 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition with dipolarophiles to afford the corresponding heterocyclic compounds because of the synthetic utility of the cycloadducts.^{1,2} The reactions of nitrones with silyl enol ethers derived from ketones are known to give the corresponding cycloadducts under heating conditions^{2a} or in the presence of trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf) (Scheme 1a).^{2b} In contrast, the reactions of nitrones with silyl enol ethers derived from esters can afford the corresponding 1,3-adducts in the presence or absence of Lewis acids (Scheme 1b).³ 1,3-Adducts of nitrones, hydroxylamine derivatives, are the precursors of amines and imines, which are synthetically useful intermediates.^{3,4}

We have recently reported that the ordered mesoporous aluminosilicate (AI-MCM-41) could catalyze aldol reactions of silyl enol ethers with aldehydes^{5a} and acetals^{5b} in a heterogeneous manner. The high catalytic activity of Al-MCM-41 was attributed to their uniform pore diameter (2.7 nm) and high surface area (1120 m²/g). The catalyst was easily recovered by filtration and reusable without a significant loss of catalytic activity. Herein, we report that the Al-MCM-41 could catalyze 1,3-addition of nitrones with silyl enol ethers derived from a ketone.



Scheme 1. (a) 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition of nitrone with silyl enol ether, (b) 1,3-Addition of silyl enol ether to nitrone.

In the first place, the reaction of *C*,*N*-diphenylnitrone (**1a**) and 1-phenyl-1-trimethylsiloxyethene (**2a**) was examined using Al-MCM-41 (Si/Al = 26) synthesized according to a known procedure with slight modification.^{6,7} After drying Al-MCM-41 (25 mg) at 120 °C for 1 h under vacuum, **1a** (0.5 mmol) and **2a** (0.6 mmol) in dichloromethane was added to the catalyst, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The catalyst was filtered off and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate was then concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product containing the corresponding 1,3-adduct **3a** in quantitative yield (Table 1, entry 1).⁸ The result was in sharp contrast to the reaction of **1a** with **2a** in refluxing xylene,^{2a} where the corresponding cycloadduct was obtained. The reaction was then carried out in the presence of stoichiometric amount of Lewis acids

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