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Ionic liquid catalyzed one pot four-component coupling reaction for the synthesis of functionalized pyrroles

Q2 Neeru Gupta, Kamal N. Singh, Jasvinder Singh *

4 Department of Chemistry and Centre of Advanced Studies in Chemistry, Panjab University, Chandigarh 160014, India

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ABSTRACT

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26 1. Introduction

Pyrroles are an important class of heterocycles found in many 27natural products [1] and have pharmacological activities [2,3]. It has 28wide application as antitumor [4], anti-inflammatory [5], antibacterial 29 [6] and antioxidant [7] activities. Moreover, they are widely used in 30 the field of material chemistry [8,9]. Thus, several methods for synthesis 31 of pyrroles have been developed. The commonly used methods are 32 Hantzsch [10,11], Knorr [12–14], Paal–Knorr [15,16] and Clausen Kaas 03 condensation [17] reactions. These classical reactions are very useful 34 but have several drawbacks like multistep synthetic operations, 35 36 harsh reaction conditions and availability of starting materials. To overcome these problems transition metal [18,19] catalysis and multi-37 component [20-23] reactions (MCRs) have been developed. MCRs 38 emerged as fast and experimentally simple way of synthesis of complex 39 40 molecules without the need of isolation and purification of any intermediate which results in minimization of waste, time and cost. Recently 41 functionalized pyrroles have been synthesized via multi component 4243 coupling reaction using various catalysts and reagents like Fe(III)catalyst [24], Pd catalyst [25], iodine [26], heterogenized tungsten 44 complex [27], NiCl₂ [27], gluconic acid [29], amberlyst-15 (under ultra-4546 sound) [30], nano-CoFe₂O₄ supported Mo catalyst [31], CeCl₃·7H₂O 47(under microwave) [32] and nano-CoFe₂O₄ supported Sb(III) catalyst 48[33]. These methods have drawbacks such as use of metal catalyst, 49 tedious workup and long reaction time. In a recent article, Meshram

* Corresponding author. *E-mail address:* jsbrar_pu@yahoo.com (J. Singh).

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.molliq.2014.07.038 0167-7322/© 2014 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. A facile and convenient one-pot tandem synthesis of functionalized pyrroles using acidic ionic liquid 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hydrogen sulfate as a catalyst has been achieved. It involves four-component reaction of amines, aldehydes, 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds and nitroalkane. This method has the advantage of simple and readily available starting materials, low cost, good yields and recyclability of catalyst. 20 © 2014 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

et al. synthesized substituted pyrroles via four-component coupling 50 reaction of amines, aldehydes, 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds and 51 nitroalkane using a huge quantity (5 ml) of ionic liquid [Hbim]BF₄ 52 [34] as solvent. Also the authors have not given any clue about the 53 behavior of aromatic amines under the set of reaction conditions 54 described. So, we felt that still there could be a scope of improvement 55 in this reaction so as to overcome the drawbacks of many reported 56 methods using ionic liquid in catalytic amount. More recently, 57 an efficient, mild and green methodology for N-substituted pyrrole 58 derivatives using amberlite IR 120 acidic resin, as a catalyst for Paal– 59 Knorr condensation of 2,5-hexadiene with primary amines under 60 solvent-free condition has also been reported by us [35].

Room temperature ionic liquids are a subject of continuous attention 62 as either solvents or catalysts [36]. Room temperature ionic liquid 1- 63 butyl-3-methylimidazolium hydrogen sulfate ([bmim]HSO₄) has 64 attracted much attention due to its bronsted acidity, recyclability and 65 efficiency in various organic transformations [37–40]. In continuation 66 with our studies towards exploring the use of [bmim]HSO₄ [41–45] 67 we synthesized functionalized pyrroles via one-pot tandem reaction. 68

2. Experimental

The acidic ionic liquid [bmim]HSO₄ was prepared according to our 70 previously reported method in literature [41]. IR spectra were recorded 71 on Perkin Elmer model 1430 spectrometer. ¹H NMR (300 MHz) and ¹³C 72 NMR (75 MHz) spectra were recorded using Joel 300 MHz spectrome-73 ter. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm with tetramethylsilane as 74 internal standard. Melting points were determined with Sunbeam 75 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. High resolution mass 76

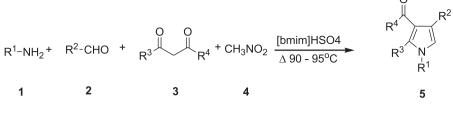
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Scheme 1. Synthesis of functionalized pyrroles.

spectra (HRMS) were recorded using Waters Micromass Q-Tf Microinstrument.

2.1. General procedure for the synthesis of functionalized pyrrole
 derivatives (5)

To a stirred solution of amine **1** (1.0 mmol), aldehyde **2** (1.0 mmol), 81 1,3-dicarbonyl compound 3 (1.0 mmol) and nitromethane 4 (1.0 mL) 82 were added [bmim]HSO₄ (0.20 mmol) (Scheme 1). The mixture was 83 then heated to 90–95 °C for a set period of time (monitored by TLC) 84 85 without an inert atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and extracted with ethyl 86 acetate $(3 \times 5 \text{ mL})$ leaving ionic liquid as residue. The combined organic 87 layers were washed with water $(2 \times 10 \text{ mL})$, brine (5 mL), dried over 88 Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product 89 was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the desired 90 91 compound. To recover the catalyst the residual ionic liquid was washed 92with diethyl ether (5 mL) for 30 min and the ether layer was decanted. The ionic liquid was then dried under vacuum and reused. The 93 formation of known products was related by comparison of melting 94 95point, IR and NMR data with literature data. HRMS data for unknown 96 compounds was taken.

97 2.2. Spectral data for the synthesis of functionalized pyrrole derivatives
98 (5) of three new compounds

 99
 1-[4-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-methyl-1-phenyl-¹H-pyrrol-3-yl]

 100
 ethanone (5c): Orange solid, mp 170–171 °C. IR (nujol)/ v_{max} cm⁻¹:

 101
 3371, 3015, 2926, 1647, 1507, 1406, 1219. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

 Q4
 δ: 1.98 (s, ³H, -C=C(CH₃)-N), 2.34 (s, ³H, CH₃-C(=O)-), 5.19 (bs, ¹H,

t1.1	Table 1
t1.2	Screening of different catalysts for the preparation of a pyrrole derivative ^a .

t1.3	S.No.	Catalyst(mol%)	Temp(°C)	Time (h)	% Yield ^b
t1.4	1.	SiO ₂ (20)	90–95 °C	14	15
t1.5	2.	Acidic Al ₂ O ₃ (20)	90–95 °C	14	16
t1.6	3.	p-TSA (20)	90–95 °C	14	25
t1.7	4.	HCl (20)	90–95 °C	14	12
t1.8	5.	Amberlist-15 (20)	90–95 °C	24	20
t1.9	6.	No catalyst	90–95 °C	24	10
t1.10	7.	[bmim]HSO ₄ (15)	Room temp	14	52
t1.11	8.	[bmim]HSO ₄ (15)	90–95 °C	3	79
t1.12	9.	[bmim]HSO ₄ (20)	90–95 °C	3	87
t1.13	10.	[bmim]HSO ₄ (25)	90–95 °C	3	88
t1.14	11.	$[bmim]BF_4(20)$	90–95 °C	3	72
t1.15	12.	[bmim]I (20)	90–95 °C	3	65

t1.18 ^b Isolated yield.

Ar-OH, D₂O exchangeable), 6.75 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, ²H, ArH), 7.13 (d, J = 103 8.4 Hz, ²H, ArH), 7.25 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, ²H, ArH), 7.30–7.43 (m, ³H, ArH) 104 ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ : 13.1, 31.0, 115.4, 120.6, 122.6, 105 126.3, 127.9, 128.2, 129.4, 130.6, 131.4, 135.6, 138.8, 155.4, 106 198.3 ppm. HRMS: m/z calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO₂ (M + 1) 292.1332; found 107 292.1366.

1-[4-(3-Bromophenyl)-2-methyl-1-phenyl-¹*H*-pyrrol-3-yl]ethanone 109 (5f): Orange sticky liquid. IR (neat)/ v_{max} cm⁻¹: 3055, 2959, 2926, 1723, 110 1651, 1595, 1504, 1402, 1222. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) & 2.01 (s, ³H, 111 – C=C(CH₃)-N), 2.32 (s, ³H, CH₃-C(=O)-), 6.58 (s, ¹H, – C=C(*H*)-N), Q5 Q6 7.16–7.26 (m, ⁴H, Ar*H*), 7.34–7.46 (m, ⁵H, Ar*H*) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, Q7 75 MHz) & 13.0, 31.2, 120.8, 122.5, 125.0, 126.4, 128.1, 128.3, 129.5, 113 129.7, 129.9, 132.2, 138.4, 196.3 ppm. HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₇BrNO 114 (M + 1) 354.0488; found 354.0512. 115

1-[1-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-methyl-4-phenyl-¹*H*-pyrrol-3-yl] 116 ethanone (5i): Orange solid, mp 155–158 °C. IR (nujol)/ v_{max} cm⁻¹: 117 3234, 3018, 2922, 1620, 1517, 1410, 1273, 1219. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 118 300 MHz) δ : 2.00 (s, ³H, $-C=C(CH_3)-N$), 2.30 (s, ³H, $CH_3-C(=O)-$), **Q8 Q9** 4.59 (bs, ¹H, Ar-OH, D₂O exchangeable), 6.47 (s, ¹H, -C=C(H)-N), **Q10** 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ²H, Ar*H*), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ²H, Ar*H*), 7.16–7.21 121 (m, ³H, Ar*H*) ppm. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ : 13.3, 30.8, 116.3, 122 121.4, 121.8, 126.5, 127.0, 127.4, 128.3, 129.5, 130.3, 136.1, 136.9, 123 157.4, 198.7 ppm. HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO₂ (M + 1) 292.1332; 124 found 292.1239. 125

126

3. Results and discussion

It is known that pyrroles can be obtained via Michael reaction of 127 β -enamino ketones or esters and nitroolefins followed via cyclization 128 [24–31,34]. β -Enamino ketones or esters can be obtained from reaction 129 of β -dicarbonyl compounds with amines and nitroolefins can be obtain- 130 ed from reaction of aldehyde and nitroalkane which can be catalyzed by 131 ionic liquids [34,46,47]. So first we examined the reaction of amine 1a, 132 aldehyde 2b, active methylene compound 3a and nitromethane 4 133 using various catalysts (Table 1). The reactions were carried out at 134 90-95 °C except for one reaction with [bmim]HSO₄ (entry 6, Table 1) 135 which was carried out at room temperature. The use of SiO_2 (entry 1, 136 Table 1), acidic Al₂O₃ (entry 2, Table 1), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*-137) TSA) (entry 3, Table 1), hydrochloric acid (HCl) (entry 4, Table 1) and 138 acidic resin amberlist-15 (entry 5, Table 1) was examined but the 139 product 5b was isolated only in 11-25% yield. In the absence of a 140 catalyst (entry 6, Table 1) only 10% yield was obtained. The use of acidic 141 ionic liquid 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hydrogen sulfate ([bmim] 142 HSO₄) (entry 10, Table 1) increased the product yield to 88%. Good 143 yield was obtained using 20 mol% of [bmim]HSO₄ (entry 9, Table 1). 144 On increasing [bmim]HSO₄ to 25 mol% (entry 10, Table 1) no significant 145 improvement in yield was observed while the yield decreased when 146 15 mol% of [bmim]HSO₄ (entry 8, Table 1) was used or the reaction 147 was carried out at room temperature (entry 7, Table 1). This reaction 148 was also studied in various solvents like dichloromethane, acetonitrile, 149 N,N-dimethylformamide and tetrahydrofuran but the yield of desired 150 product decreased. 151

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