ed aldol condensation of the silyl ketene acetal derived from N-methyl ephedrine-O-propionate, in which the ephedrine nitrogen was expected to bind to titanium metal in the transition state.

In summary, we found that the silyl ketene acetal of S-2-pyridyl thioester condensed with several aldehydes to give highly syn selective aldol products irrespective of its geometry. The selectivity could be explained in terms of chelation model. The 2-mercaptopropyridyl moiety of the aldol adduct is a good leaving group, thus it would be utilized in further synthetic transformation according to the conventional methods.

Experimental Section

Typical procedure for the aldol condensation. To a cooled (−78 °C) solution of 282 mg (1.0 mmol) of the silyl ketene acetal 1 and 83 μL (1.1 mmol) of cyclopropane carboxaldehyde in 10 mL of dichloromethane was added dropwise 1.1 mL (1.1 mmol) of titanium (IV) chloride in 1.0 M dichloromethane, and the red solution was stirred for 0.5 h at −78 °C. Warned to 0 °C over 0.5 h, the mixture was further stirred for 1.0 h at 0 °C and then quenched with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. The precipitate was filtered off, and the organic phase was separated, dried over magnesium sulfate, and concentrated to afford a yellow oil, which was purified by flash chromatography (hexane : ethyl ether = 1 : 1) to give 199 mg (84%) of product as a pale yellow oil.

References

3. For example, thioesters can be easily converted to acids (HgO, H2O), esters (Hg2, or THF, alcohol), alcohols (LAH, H2/Ra-Ni, or NiCl2), aldehydes (H2/Ra-Ni), ketones (RM) and so on.
5. In Lewis acid mediated aldol condensation, highly syn selective products were reported in case of a few excep-

Regioselective Synthesis of 2-Amino-3-cyanofuran Derivatives and Its Guanidine Cyclization Reaction

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Received April 19, 1996

It is reported that acyloins reacted with malononitrile in aqueous base to give 2-amino-3-cyanofuran derivatives. The regioselective synthesis of 4- or 5-substituted-2-amino-3-cyanofuran was interested for the synthesis of pyrrolo[2,3-d] pyrimidine based anti tumor reagents. For the synthesis of 4-substituted-2-amino-3-cyanofuran, α-hydroxy ketone was reacted with malononitrile in triethyl-
amine-methanol system (Scheme 1). Expected furan 1a-c and
the unexpected dimer 2 were obtained in reasonable yield
as a 4:1 ratio respectively. The dimer 2 was formed by
way of a Diels-Alder cycloaddition of 1 with itself. McKee' has
reported that the dimer 2 was the only product in his
reaction condition. The monomer 1 and the dimer 2 were
in equilibrium at reflux, which indicates that it was not neces-
sary to separate the mixture for further reaction.

5-Substituted-2-amino-3-cyanofuran derivatives 1d-e were
also easily prepared from α-chloro ketone and malononitrile
(Scheme 2). Carbamion formed from malononitrile in basic
condition attacked at α-chloro carbon instead of carbonyl
group to give 5-substituted furan, but attacked at carbonyl
in α-hydroxy ketone to give 4-substituted furan
(Scheme 1).

2-Amino-3-cyanofuran derivatives were utilized for the
guanidine cyclization reaction. It has been thoroughly
documented that a-aminonitriles can be readily cyclized to
anulated 2,4-diaminopyrimidine systems by reaction with guani-
dine.4 It was first explored the possible application of this
well-known methodology to the preparation of a model 2,
4-diaminofuro[2,3-d]pyrimidine 3a by the reaction of guani-
dine with 2-amino-3-cyano-4-methylfuran 1a, readily accessed
by condensation of acetol (hydroxyacetone) with malononitrile.
Surprisingly, the product of this reaction was shown to be 2,4-
diamino-5-methylpyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine 4a rather than the anticipated furopyrimidine 3a. This unexpected ring
transformation/ring annulation reaction turned out to be fairly
general (Scheme 3). Although substitutents at position 4
of the furan ring can apparently be accommodated, small
alkyl groups lead to better results than an aryl substituent.
However, the reaction is sensitive to the presence and nature of
substituents at position 5 and is blocked entirely by a
5-aryl substituent.

Plausible mechanisms for this guanidine mediated ring
transformation/ring annulation reactions were shown in
Scheme 4. In mechanism (a), initial Michael addition of the
guanidine to the 2-position of the furan o-aminonitrile 1a
followed by furan ring cleavage could generate an open-chain
carbonyl derivative 5, which then recyclizes to an interme-
diate pyrrole, thus incorporating the 2-amino group of 1a
as the pyrrole NH grouping. Subsequent intramolecular addi-
tion of the guanidinyl substituent to the o-substituted nit-
rile group then completes the pyrimidine ring annulation
to give 4a. In mechanism (b), deprotonation of the acidic
2-amino group of the starting furan o-aminonitrile 1a by the
strongly basic guanidine could be followed by C-O bond
cleavage to generate an intermediate ketenimine which, by
prototopic rearrangement, would lead to the substituted ma-
lononitrile 6. Further reaction with the guanidine in the
usual way would lead to a 2,4,6-triaminopyrimidine carrying
a β-carbonyl substituent at C-5; final ring closure would form
the fused pyrrole ring. In an attempt to elucidate the reaction
pathway involved in this intriguing transformation as sup-
ported examples for mechanism (b) which only showed in
thiophene derivatives,5 the reaction of furan o-aminonitrile
1a with NaOH only gave decomposition. But the supported
examples6 for mechanism (a) showed in all furan derivatives
and thus mechanism (a) could be the more plausible route.
In summary, 4- or 5-substituted-2-amino-3-cyanofuran was selectively synthesized and was utilized for the synthesis of pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine via guanidine cyclization reaction.

Typical Procedure:

**Synthesis of 2-Amino-3-cyano-4-methylfuran 1a.** Acetol (3.7 g, 50 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (20 mL) with stirring under an atmosphere of nitrogen and a mixture of malononitrile (3.5 g, 53 mmol) and triethylamine (6.96 mL, 50 mmol) in methanol (25 mL) was added slowly dropwise at such a rate as to maintain the reaction temperature below 40 °C. After 20 min., the reaction mixture was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with methylene chloride (2×50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (Na₂SO₄), and condensed to a brown solid. Recrystallization from ethyl acetate-hexane gave 1a (4.8 g, 39.3 mmol, 79%) as pale yellow needles: mp 155-157 °C; 1H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.57 (s, 1H, =CH), 4.78-4.99 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 2.01 (s, 3H, CH₃).

**Synthesis of 2,4-Diamino-5-methylpyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine 4a.** To a solution of guanidine free base (from 20 mmol of guanidine hydrochloride and 20 mmol of NaOMe) in anhydrous EtOH (50 mL) was added the aminonitrile 1a (1.52 g, 10 mmol) and the mixture was refluxed for 36 h. The mixture was cooled in ice bath and the precipitated solid was filtered, washed with MeOH, and dried to give 4a (720 mg, 4.1 mmole, 41%) as a white solid. The mother liquor was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting precipitate was collected by filtration and dried to yield an additional 450 mg of pure 4a as a white solid (overall yield 67%): mp 166-168 °C; 1H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 10.49 (s, 1H, NH), 6.40 (s, 1H, =CH), 6.30 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.40-5.75 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 2.20 (s, 3H, CH₃).

**Acknowledgment.** Financial support of the Research Center for New Bio-Materials in Agriculture (KOSEF) and the Basic Science Research Institute Program of Ministry of Education (BSRI-95-3401) are gratefully acknowledged.

**References**


**Convenient One-Pot Synthesis of Polystyrene Copolymer Containing Thiocarbamate Group**

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Received April 23, 1996

Organic compounds containing dithiocarbamate group have been used extensively primarily for the vulcanization of rubbers. But they have received quite attention in radical polymerization because they can be applied to the synthesis of block and graft copolymers. For example, by thermal or by UV activation, a polymer chain having a dithiocarbamate group is dissociated and generate two radicals; one is a polymeric radical and the other is a relatively stable thiocarbamate-radical as shown in Scheme 1. Activation of the dithiocarbamate functionalized polymer in the presence of a second monomer, therefore, generates block or graft copolymers. During the polymerization the thiocarbamate radical caps the growing radical reversibly.

An easy preparation method of prepolymer containing dithiocarbamate group, therefore, has a significant meaning. There are a couple of ways to prepare prepolymer containing dithiocarbamate group depending on the location of the group on the polymer chain. Polymers with the pendant dithiocarbamate groups which are randomly distributed on the polymer chain have been prepared by copolymerization of a vinyl monomer containing dithiocarbamate such as vinylbenzyl dithiocarbamate 1.

![Scheme 1](image)

In this report, however, a prepolymer containing dithiocarbamate was easily prepared for the first time by an one-pot synthesis as shown in Scheme 2. The second reaction step involves a polymer reaction which seems to be difficult to carry out. But this reaction led to facile conversion to the corresponding product.