Calcium Chloride/HCl An Efficient Co-catalytic System For Synthesis Xanthene Under Microwave Condition

Pramod Kulkarni
Department of Chemistry
Hutatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya, Rajgurunagar, Pune Maharshtra 410505 India
Phone No. 919850658087, Fax :02135222099
Corresponding Email: pramodskulkarni3@gmail.com

Abstract: Calcium chloride with one drop of conc. HCl was found facile and efficient catalyst for the synthesis of aryl 14*H*-dibenzo[a,j] xanthenes via one-pot condensation of various substituted benzaldehydes and β-naphthol under microwave and solvent-free conditions. The present protocol offers several advantages such as shorter reaction time, good to excellent yields, simple to operate, inexpensive and easily available catalyst.

Keywords: Calcium chloride, Microwave, Condensation reaction, β-naphthol, Xanthenes

Introduction:

Multicomponent reactions are process in which three or more reactants are united in a one-pot to construct products that include substantial portions of all the reactants. Multicomponent reactions are effective in construction of highly functionalized small organic molecules from readily available starting materials in a one-pot with inherent flexibility for creating molecular complexity and diversity coupled with minimization of time, labour, cost and waste product. [1] Due to all these facts, multicomponent reactions attract many organic chemists for synthesis of heterocyclic and bioactive molecules.

Xanthene and its derivatives are an important class of oxygen-containing heterocyclic compounds present in natural product with biological activity. [2] The important biological and pharmacological activities of xanthenes are antiviral, [3] anti-inflammatory, [4] anti-bacterials, [5] antimalarial agent, [6] antitumor activity, [7] anti-plasmodial, [8] as well as in

photodynamic therpy [9] and as antagonists of the paralyzing action of zoxazolamine. [10] Furthermore due to their useful spectroscopic properties, they are used as dyes,[11] pH sensitive fluorescent materials for the visualization of biomolecular assemblies [12] and in laser technologies. [13] Numerous methods have been reported for the synthesis of xanthenes derivatives in the literature are the reaction of cyclodehydration, [14] cyclocondensation of 2-tetralone with 2-hydroxyaromaticaldehyde, [15] reaction of aryloxymagnesium halides with triethylorthoformate,[16] phenyl carbonyl coupling reaction of benzaldehyde and acetophenone,[17] trapping of benzynes by phenol, [18] carbon monoxide,[19] aldehyde acetal, [20] formamide,[21] 2-naphthol-1-methanol, [22] cycloacylation of carbamates [23] and palladium catalysed cyclization of polycyclic aryltriflate esters. [24] However, many of these methods suffer from shortcoming such as use of expensive reagents, low yields or mixture of products, long reaction time, strongly acidic condition, the use of an excess of regents and catalysts and use of toxic organic solvent, drastic reaction condition. To suppress these drawbacks, the search of a new and efficient catalyst with high catalytic activity, short reaction time, recyclability, and simple reaction condition for the preparation of xanthenes under neutral mild and practical conditions is of key interest. An improvement in reaction procedure is made by reacting 2-naphthol with alkyl/aryl aldehydes employing various catalysts such as Bronsted acids, [25-27] solid supported reagent, [28, 29] Metal salt, [30, 31] Metal triflate,[32] I_2 ,[33] Phosphosulfonic acid, [34] trichloroisocyanuric acid, (TCCA), [35] Vanadatesulfuric acid, [36] HBF_4-SiO_2. [37] However, some these methods are suffer from one or more shortcomings like expensive and toxic catalyst, acidic condition, long reaction time, low yield, preparation of catalyst require in some cases, use of heavy and toxic metal. Hence, to avoid these shortcomings, the innovation of a new and efficient catalyst with high catalytic activity, short reaction time, inexpensive and easily available, simple work-up procedure for the preparation of xanthenes under neutral, mild and practical conditions is of key interest.

In recent years, there has been considerable interest in developing more economical and environmental – friendly conversion processes. $CaCl_2$ is an inexpensive and commercially available reagent and as it has been shown recently to be a very good catalyst in organic reactions. [38-41] We herein report an efficient, practical environmentally benign and high yielding method for the synthesis of Xanthene using $CaCl_2$ as catalyst.

During the last 25 years a noteworthy number of ~ 5000 publications using microwave-assisted organic transformations are published. [42] Application of microwave in organic synthesis is well documented in Literature and some reviews are published on organic transformation mediated by microwave irradiation. [42,43]

Experimental

General: Reagents were purchased from Loba, Merck, SRL, Signa Aldrichand Spectrochem and used without further purification. Melting points recorded by open capillary method and uncorrected. Reactions were irradiated in a microwave oven (Onidia India Ltd.). ^{1}HNMR and ^{13}CNMR spectra were obtained in $CDCl_3$ on Bruker AV-300(300MHZ) spectrometers using TMS as an internal standard. IR spectra were recorded on Nicolet Fourier Transform spectrometer. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on GF-25U (Anal. Tech) plates and silica gel glass –backed plates.

General procedure for Preparation of aryl 14*H*-dibenzo[a,j] xanthenes Derivatives: A mixture of β-naphthol(2mmol) and substituted benzaldehyde (1mmol), calcium chloride (0.1mmol) and one drop of Conc. HCl were taken in a 50ml beaker and irradiated with a microwave oven (Onidia India Ltd.). The reaction mixture was irradiated for specified time (see Table 1). The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. Upon completion of reaction, reaction mixture was diluated with cold water and solid was precipitated out, then filtered on suction pump and washed with cold ethanol, dried the product. The product is

purified by crysatallization method. All products were known in the literature and were characterized by comparsion of IR and NMR spectra with authentic samples.

Results and Discussions:

Calcium chloride is polar covalent molecules due to high electronegative difference between calcium and chlorine. The binding electron pair in calcium and chlorine is pulled towards chlorine atom, forming a diploe within the molecule. Due to this dipole calcium chloride absorbs microwave energy and converts into heat. This generated heat used to bring reaction between benzaldehyde and β-naphthol .

In a preliminary study, β-naphthol(2mmol) (1a) and benzaldehyde (1mmol) (2a) in the 2:1 mole ratio was irradiated in presence of calcium chloride (0.1mmole)/one drop of Conc. HCl under microwave condition. The function of conc. HCl in this reaction is it increase the acidic character of calcium chloride as well as rate of the reaction. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. As the time moves reaction proceed in forward direction and the reaction was found to be complete within 10 minutes affording 14-(2-phenyl)-14H-dibenzo[a,j]xanthene (3a) in 95% yield. The structure of the product is confirmed by spectroscopy method. In ^{1}HNMR spectra the aliphatic CH proton of 14-(2-phenyl)-14H-dibenzo[a,j]xanthene (3a) is obtained as singlet at 7.48 ppm and in ^{13}CNMR CH carbon at 32.4ppm which is in closely agreement with the reported values of 14-(2-phenyl)-14H-dibenzo[a,j]xanthene. This proton and carbons are coming from benzaldehyde, the adlehyde proton appears at 9ppm and this peak is disappearing in product which confirms the bond formation between C-1 carbon of β-naphthol and aldehyde carbon. Aliphatic CH proton is obtained as singlet in all the compounds.

Next we extend the scope of this reaction with substituted benzaldehyde, monosubstituted, disubstituted and trisubstituted benzaldehyde and β-naphthol (Figure 1). Substituent on aromatic aldehyde is varied from electron donating as well as electron withdrawing. Electron donating groups are generally more reactive than their corresponding benzaldehydes with electron withdrawing groups and give the desired product in a short reaction time. The results are shown in Table 1.

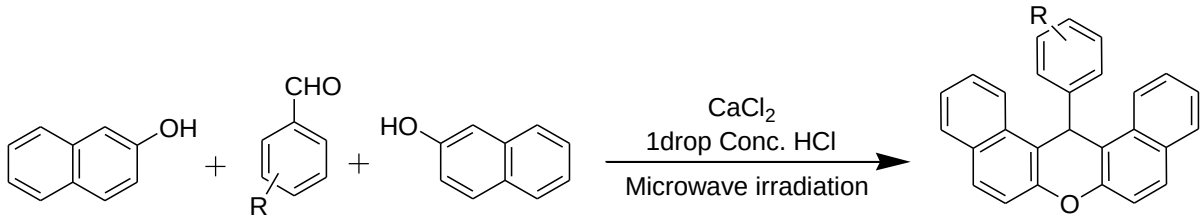

Figure 1 Synthesis of Xanthene via one-pot condensation between 2-naphthol and benzaldehyde catalyzed by calcium chloride/Conc. HCl under microwave condition

Table 1 Synthesis of aryl 14H-dibenzo[a,j] xanthenes in presence of calcium chloride/Conc.HCl as catalyst from β-naphthol and aromatic aldehydes under microwave conditions[a]

Entry	Aromatic Aldehydes	Product (**3a**)	Time	% Yield[b]	M. P.^{o}C [Ref.]
1	Benzaldehyde	**3a**	12min	96	180-183[29]
2	4-Methyl benzaldehyde	**3b**	10min	94	197-199[29]
3	4-Methoxy benzadehyde	**3c**	8min	97	203-204[29]
4	4-Nitro benzaldehyde	**3d**	25min	86	309-311[29]
5	4-bromobenzaldehyde	**3e**	18min	91	294-297[34]
6	4-Chlorobenzaldehyde	**3f**	20min	89	284-286[42]
7	4-Fluorobenzaldehyde	**3g**	21min	88	239-238[29]
8	4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde	**3h**	15min	93	139-141[29]
9	2-Nitrobenzaldehyde	**3i**	30min	65	292-293[42]
10	2-Methoxybenzaldehyde	**3j**	25min	74	256-258[34]
11	2-Chlorobenzaldehyde	**3k**	28min	70	215-217[42]
12	3-Nitrobenzaldehyde	**3l**	14min	93	211-212[29]
13	3-bromobenzaldehyde	**3m**	13min	95	190-191[42]
14	3-chlorobenzaldehyde	**3n**	13min	94	212-213[45]

15	3-hydroxybenzaldehyde	**3o**	12min	92	244-246[41]
16	3-methoxybenzaldehyde	**3p**	11min	94	176-177[29]
17	2,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde	**3q**	22min	83	170-171[46]
18	2,4-dichlorobenzaldehyde	**3r**	25min	81	229-230[46]
19	3,4- dimethoxybenzaldehyde	**3s**	19min	90	196-197[40]
20	n-propyl	**3t**	21min	84	151-153[43]

a: Reaction Conditions: 2mmole of 2-naphthol, 1mmole substituted benzaldehyde, calcium chloride (0.1mmol)/1drop conc.HCl irradiated with microwave; b: isolated yield after purification

The formation of the products was assumed to proceed via formation of a Knoevenagel product followed by Michael addition. One molecule of β-naphthol was firstly condensed with aldehyde which is activated by calcium chloride to afford intermediate Knoevenagel product. Then the active methylene of the second molecule of β-naphthol reacted with the Knoevenagel product via conjugate Michael addition to generate the intermediate which undergoes intramolecular cyclodehydration to give the desired product.

Conclusions

We have established an efficient, absolutely clean and high yielding eco-friendly methodology, for the synthesis of aryl 14*H*-dibenzo[a,j] xanthenes under microwave condition using calcium chloride as solid support catalyst. The merits of this method are high yield, easy to work out, short reaction time, minimal environmental impact, avoid use of toxic solvent, thus making it one of the attractive and practical protocols for the synthesis of aryl 14*H*-dibenzo[a,j] xanthenes.

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