# Oppenauer-type synthesis of α,β-acetylenic ketones from tetra(phenylethynyl)tin and aromatic aldehydes

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### Abstract

Tetra(phenylethynyl)tin reacts with aromatic aldehydes in the presence of a Lewis acid followed by the Oppenauer-type in situ oxidation of propargyl alcohols to give acetylenic ketones in a very good yield.

#### Keywords

Organotin compounds, tetraalkynylstannane, Oppenauer oxidation,  $\alpha,\beta$  - acetylenic ketones

α-Acetylenic ketones are highly reactive compounds widely used for the synthesis of various carbo- and heterocycles such as pyrroles [1], chromones [2, 3], indenones [4], quinolones [5], benzodiazepines [6], spirocycles [7], etc. One of the most general methods for the synthesis of α-acetylenic ketones is based on the reaction of metal acetylides with aldehydes, followed by oxidation of propargyl alcohols formed [2, 5, 8–11]. Trialkylstannylacetylenes Alk<sub>3</sub>Sn–C=C–R are tolerant with respect to many functional groups, therefore they are actively used as alkynylating reagents as well as reagents in cross-coupling reactions [12, 13]. Prior we have developed effective methods for the preparation of tin tetraacetylides (RC=C)<sub>4</sub>Sn starting from terminal alkynes and tin tetrachloride [14, 15] or tin tetra(N,N-dialkylcarbamates) [16]. One may expect that the resulting tetraalkynylstannanes (RC=C)<sub>4</sub>Sn will have certain advantages over trialkylstannylacetylenes Alk<sub>3</sub>Sn–C=C–R, due to atomefficiency and lower toxicity. To date, the properties of tin tetraacetylides

 $(RC=C)_4$ Sn have been studied insufficiently and their application in organic synthesis is limited to several reactions with organometallic or organoboron compounds [17, 18].

Recently we found that tetraalkynylstannanes ( $RC\equiv C$ )<sub>4</sub>Sn are useful in the Stille cross-coupling reaction with aryl halides [19]. Noteworthy that all four alkynyl fragments are involved into this process, *i.e.*, the reaction has a high E-factor, and gave relatively non-toxic inorganic tin(IV) halides as a byproducts.

Here we studied the reactivity of  $(RC\equiv C)_4$ Sn with respect to ArCHO. Thus, it was found that the reaction of tetra(phenylethynyl)tin **1** with aromatic aldehydes **2** occurred in the presence of ZnCl<sub>2</sub> at 60°C. However,  $\alpha$ acetylenic ketones **3** were obtained as the main products instead of expected propargyl alcohols **4**.



Presumably, the reaction proceeds through the Oppenauer oxidation step, similar to the oxidative addition of alkynes to RCHO in the presence of  $InBr_3$  [20]. The tin alkoxides formed in the first stage are rapidly oxidized by Oppenauer reaction with the second aldehyde molecule to form ketone **3** and the corresponding alcohol (detected by LCMS).



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Target  $\alpha$ -acetylenic ketones **3** were readily isolated by column chromatography eluting with toluene. The structure of the obtained compounds was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, IR spectroscopy, and LCMS data. The structure of 1-(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-6-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one was additionally confirmed by X-ray diffraction analysis.



Figure 1. The structure of 1-(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-6-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one (by X-ray).

In summary, tetra(phenylethynyl)tin reacted with aromatic aldehydes in the presence of ZnCl<sub>2</sub> to form acetylenic ketones. The proposed reaction mechanism involves the Oppenauer oxidation of tin propargyl alcoholates.

#### Experimental

Tetra(phenylethynyl)tin was prepared according to the procedure [14].

Preparative procedure for the synthesis of **1,3-diphenylprop-2-yn-1-one**.

A 2-mL sealable Wheaton vial was charged with 10.4 mg (0.076 mmol) of anhydrous ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, toluene (0.8 mL), 100 mg (0.191 mmol) of tetra(phenylethynyl)tin and 155  $\mu$ L (1.53 mmol) of freshly distilled PhCHO. A reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 5 h, then treated with 1M aqueous HCl. The product was extracted with HCCl<sub>3</sub> and purified by column chromatography (eluent – PhMe). The yield of ketone Ph-C=C-C(O)Ph was

154.6 mg (98 %) as light yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39–7.53 (m, 5 H, Ar), 7.60–7.69 (m, 3 H, Ar), 8.22 (d, J = 7,3 Hz, 2 H, Ar); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  86.8, 93.1, 120.1, 128.6, 128.7, 129.5, 130.8, 133.0, 134.1, 136.8, 177.9. IR (liquid film, cm<sup>-1</sup>)  $\nu_{max}$  3099.9, 3082.6, 3059.5, 3034.4, 2199.1 (C=C), 1641.6 (C=O), 1597.2, 1581.8. MS (m/z, EI, 70 eV) (I<sub>rel</sub> (%)): 206 (M<sup>+</sup>, 52), 178 (88), 152 (11), 129 (100), 101 (14), 89 (11), 77 (26), 76 (21), 75 (33), 51 (35).

**1-(2,3-Dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-6-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-one** was prepared similarly from tetra(phenylethynyl)tin (64.4 mg, 0.123 mmol) and 2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-6-carbaldehyde (161.9 mg, 0.986 mmol). The reaction product was isolated by column chromatography, eluent – toluene. Yield 100 mg (77%), pale yellow crystals, mp 98.5–99.7°C (hexane-chloroform). IR spectrum (KBr), ν, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3065 ( $C_{sp2}$ -H), 2986, 2938, 2922, 2891, 2876 ( $C_{sp3-H}$ ), 2203 (C=C), 1626 (C=O), 1601, 1584. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ, ppm: 4.28–4.30 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.32–4.34 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.95 (d, 1H, ArH, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.38–7.48 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.64–7.66 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.74–7.77 (m, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ C, ppm: 64.2, 64.9, 87.0, 92.4, 111.5, 119.0, 120.4, 124.0, 128.7, 130.7, 131.1, 133.1, 143.5, 149.2, 176.6. Mass spectrum (EI, 70 eV), m/z ( $I_{rel}$ , %): 264 (100) [M]<sup>+</sup>, 236 (53), 180 (49), 152 (50), 129 (65), 126 (15), 101 (11), 75 (18), 51 (23).

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