

Copper Salt-Catalyzed Azide-[3 + 2] Cycloadditions of Ynamides and Bis-Ynamides

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Abstract: A one-pot synthesis of amide-substituted triazoles from alkyl bromides and ynamides is described here along with syntheses of novel bis-yn-

amides and their applications in [3+2] cycloadditions with azides to construct unique bis-triazoles.

Keywords: azide-[3 + 2] cycloaddition; bis-triazoles; bis-ynamides; Cu(I) catalysis; triazoles; ynamides

Introduction

The versatility of 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions^[1,2] in constructing synthetically and medicinally useful heterocycles^[3] has led us to investigate [3+2] cycloadditions of ynamides.^[4–8] Specifically, we have examined the classic Huisgen's azide-[3+2] cycloaddition^[9–11] given its current resurgence facilitated by the “click” chemistry concept.^[12] Recently, Cintrat^[13] and we^[14] independently communicated azide-[3 + 2] cycloadditions employing ynamides in a highly regioselective manner that favors 1,4-adducts (**1**+**2**→**3** in Figure 1). Particularly, we focused on developing tandem azidation- and hydroazidation-[3+2] cycloadditions of ynamides, leading to an array of amide-substituted triazoles.^[14] We report here details of our work with copper salt-catalyzed azide-[3+2] cycloadditions of ynamides that feature a one-pot synthesis of triazoles from alkyl bromides and constructions of bis-triazoles from novel bis-ynamides.

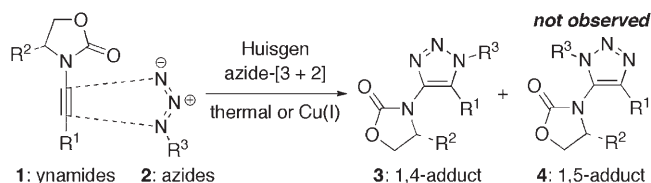
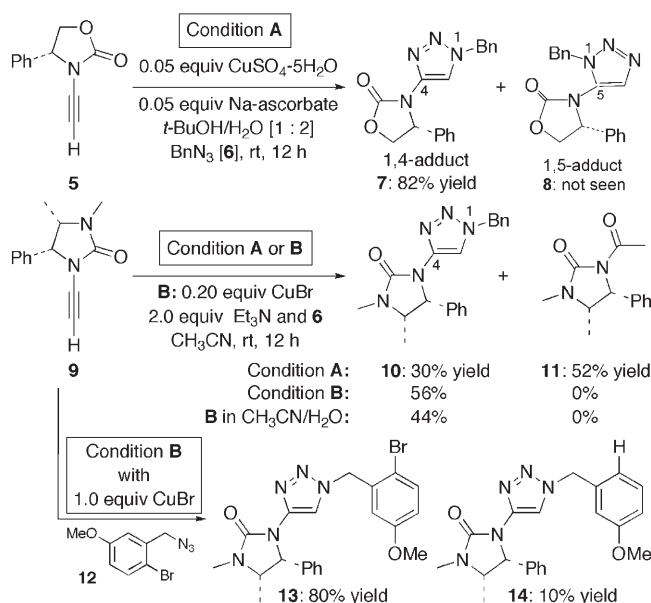


Figure 1. Ynamides in [3 + 2] cycloadditions.

Results and Discussions

Problems with the Competing Ynamide Hydrolysis

The feasibility of [3+2] cycloadditions of ynamides with organic azides could be readily established. As shown in Scheme 1, the CuSO₄·5 H₂O-catalyzed cycloaddition of terminal ynamide **5** with BnN₃ led to chiral amide-substituted triazole **7** in 82 % yield as the



Scheme 1. Huisgen's azide-[3 + 2] cycloadditions of ynamides.

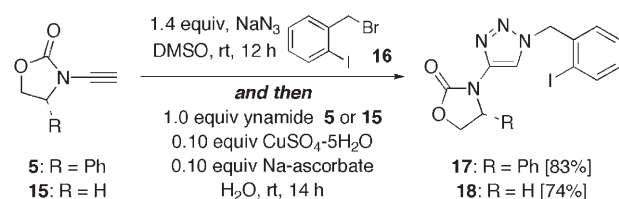
only regioisomer using Fokin–Sharpless conditions.^[15] The catalytic sequence likely proceeds through a Cu(I) catalytic species generated via reduction of CuSO₄.^[15] The high level of regioselectivity is likely a result of the copper catalysis and steric factors because of the large oxazolidinone motif.^[15,16] However, there was an unresolved problem in our earlier work. When ynamides that are more prone to hydrolysis, such as **9**, were used the desired triazole **10** was obtained in only 30% yield with the hydrolysis product **11** being predominant.

To circumvent the hydrolysis problem, an improved protocol (Conditions B) was developed using 0.2 equivs. CuBr as the source of the Cu(I) catalyst along with anhydrous CH₃CN serving as the solvent and Et₃N as the base and ligand to improve the solubility of CuBr in CH₃CN. Under these new conditions, the yield of triazole **10** was improved to 56% without noticeable hydrolysis even when CH₃CN was not anhydrous, although the yield dropped to 44% (Scheme 1). The improvement was further visible in the reaction of ynamide **9** with azide **12**, which led to the desired triazole **13** in 80% yield along with intriguingly 10% of the debrominated product **14**, although 1.0 equiv. of CuBr was used. Under Conditions A, we could only observe a trace amount of **13** with hydrolysis of **9** being the major pathway.

Synthetic Scope of Organic Azides

To expand the synthetic scope, we embarked on an exploration of other organic azides besides BnN₃. However, due to the difficulties in handling organic azides in general,^[17] especially those with low molecular weights, we ultimately designed a one-pot syntheses of amide-substituted triazoles from alkyl bromides directly. As shown in Scheme 2, organic azides were generated *in situ* by reacting alkyl bromides with NaN₃ in DMSO solution,^[18,19] and subsequently, copper salt, Na ascorbate, and terminal ynamides **5** and **15** were added without isolating the intermediate organic azides. Under this one-pot protocol, triazoles **17** and **18** were obtained in excellent yields from **5** and **15**, respectively.

The scope of this protocol was explored as shown in Table 1. In general, all primary bromides (en-



Scheme 2. One-pot synthesis of triazoles from alkyl bromides.

Table 1. Scope of one-pot synthesis of triazoles from alkyl bromides.

entry	ynamides	R-Br ^a	1,4-cycloadducts	yield [%] ^b
1				70
2				78
3				67
4				10
5				80 ^c
6				73
7				85
8				40
9				10
10				50 ^c

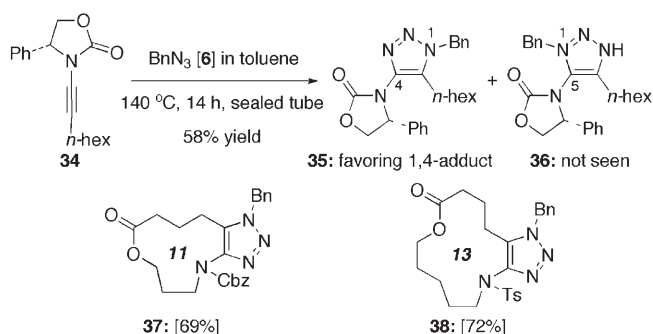
^[a] 1.4 equivs. of NaN₃, 1.3 equivs. of R-Br, DMSO, room temperature, 12 h, and then, 1.0 equiv of ynamide, 0.10 equiv of CuSO₄·5 H₂O, 0.10 equiv of Na ascorbate, H₂O, room temperature, 14 h.

^[b] Isolated yields.

^[c] 1.4 equivs. of NaN₃, DMSO, room temperature, 12 h, 1.3 equivs. of R-Br, and then 1.0 equivs. of ynamide, 0.20 equivs. of CuBr, 2.0 equivs. of Et₃N, CH₃CN, room temperature, 12 h.

tries 1–3, 5–7 and 10) afforded the respective triazoles in good yields, including allyl bromide (entry 3), propargyl bromide (entry 7), and benzyl bromide (entries 5 and 10). A secondary bromide (entry 8) gave slightly lower yield. Many functional groups such as silyl ether (entry 1), benzyl ether (entry 5), acetal (entry 2), aryl bromide (entries 5 and 10), alkene (entry 3), and internal alkyne (entry 7) could be tolerated.

It is noteworthy that to avoid competing hydrolysis of ynamides during the cycloaddition, when using ynamide **9**, the desired triazole **13** could be again obtained [see Note c] related to Conditions B illustrated in Scheme 1 for the cycloaddition (entry 10). In addition, we found that sulfonyl-substituted ynamides such as **19** can also be problematic in terms of hydrolysis. Thus, when applicable, the cycloaddition of **19**

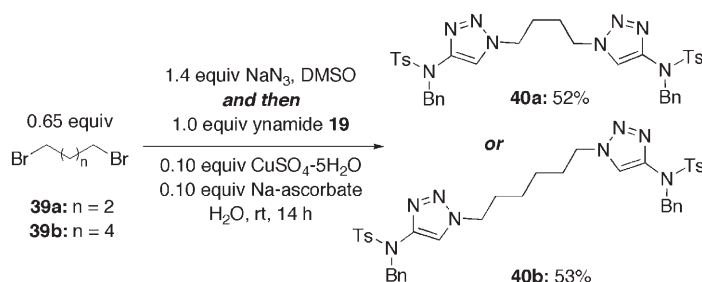


Scheme 3. Fused triazoles employing macrocyclic ynamides.

with the azide derived from bromide **23** could also be improved to 80 % (entry 4 versus 5).

Syntheses of Uniquely Fused Triazoles

In our previous communication,^[14] we had demonstrated that the Huisgen azide-[3 + 2] cycloaddition of internal ynamides was also feasible under thermal condition. As shown in Scheme 3, *n*-hexyl-substituted internal ynamide **34** could react with BnN_3 at 140 °C in toluene to give 1,4-disubstituted triazole **35** in 58 % yield with no observable 1,5-adduct **36**.



Scheme 4. One-pot syntheses of bistriazoles from dibromides.

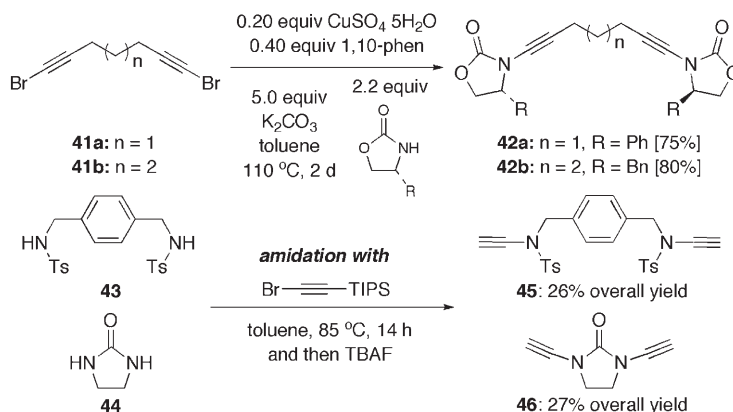
Based on this precedent, we examined cycloadditions of macrocyclic ynamides, which could be prepared through a Cu(I)-catalyzed intramolecular coupling of amides tethered to alkynyl bromides that we had reported recently.^[20] As a result, novel macrocyclic fused triazoles **37** and **38** were successfully isolated in good yields when their respective macrocyclic ynamides were heated with BnN_3 at 140 °C in toluene in a sealed tube.

Novel Bis-Triazoles and Bis-Ynamides

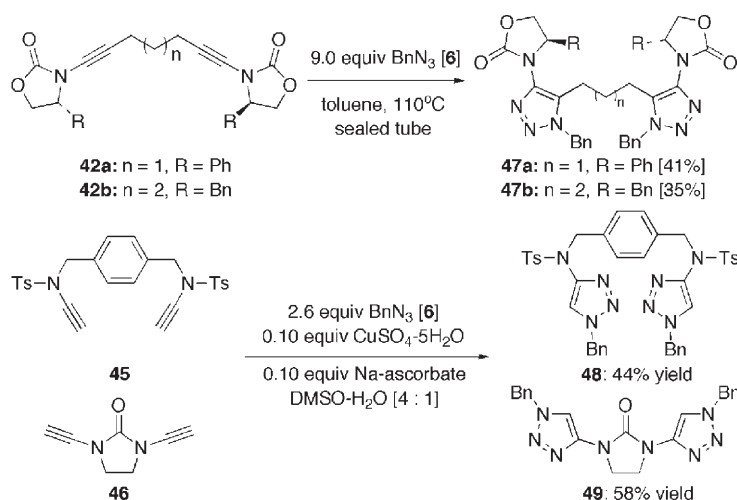
With azide-[3+2] cycloadditions of ynamide firmly established, we examined two potential approaches for achieving double cycloadditions to construct novel bis-triazoles. Two bis-triazoles could be quickly assembled in one-pot with good yields by reacting ynamide **19** with di-azides generated *in situ* from dibromides **39a** and **39b** and NaN_3 , thereby providing the feasibility of the first approach (Scheme 4).

To explore the scope of the bis-triazole synthesis, we achieved the synthesis of novel bis-ynamides **42a** and **42b** by coupling the respective dialkynyl bromides **41a** and **41b** with Evans auxiliaries in good yields (Scheme 5). Another approach to the bis-ynamide synthesis was the coupling of bis-amides with monoalkynyl bromide, which was demonstrated in Scheme 5. We successfully synthesized two terminal bis-ynamides **45** and **46** in reasonable overall yields through a two-step sequence: 1) coupling of TIPS substituted alkynyl bromide with bi-sulfonamide **43** or urethane **44**, and 2) the removal of the TIPS group using TBAF. Although bis-ynamides **42a**, **42b**, **45** and **46** are structurally novel, Diederich^[7] had prepared some related ynamides.

With these bis-ynamides in hand, we examined the second approach to bis-triazoles (Scheme 6). Thermally driven [3 + 2] cycloadditions of internal bis-ynamides **42a** and **42b** with BnN_3 succeeded in giving bis-triazoles **47a** and **47b** in moderate yields, while the



Scheme 5. Preparations of novel bis-ynamides.



Scheme 6. Syntheses of bis-triazoles from bis-ynamides.

Fokin–Sharpless copper salt-catalyzed cycloadditions of terminal bis-ynamides **45** and **46** proceeded well to afford bis-triazoles **48** and **49**, respectively, in good yields.

Conclusions

We have described here a one-pot regioselective synthesis of amide-substituted triazoles from alkyl bromides and ynamides, and the synthesis of novel bis-ynamides and their applications to synthesize unique bis-triazoles.

Experimental Section

Triazole **7a** with Conditions A

To a vial charged with ynamide **5** (50.0 mg, 0.267 mmol) were added $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (3.3 mg, 0.0134 mmol, 0.050 equivs.), Na ascorbate (2.70 mg, 0.0134 mmol, 0.050 equivs.), benzyl azide (37.0 μL , 0.294 mmol, 1.10 equivs.), and *tert*-butyl alcohol (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 min before H_2O (1 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was then vigorously stirred at room temperature for 12 h under nitrogen. After TLC showed that ynamide **5** was all consumed, the reaction mixture was diluted with H_2O (8 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 $\times$ 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaCl and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Removal of solvent under reduced pressure gave crude triazole **7a**, which was purified *via* silica gel flash column chromatography with EtOAc/hexane as gradient eluent to yield the pure triazole **7a** as a white solid; yield: 70.0 mg (82 %).

Triazole **10** with Conditions B

To a vial charged with ynamide **9** (15.0 mg, 0.070 mmol) were added CuBr (1.8 mg, 0.0035 mmol, 0.20 equivs.), BnN_3 (13.0 μL , 0.098 mmol, 1.40 equivs.), 19.5 μL Et_3N (0.14 mmol, 14.1 mg, 2.0 equivs.) and CH_3CN (1 mL). The reaction mixture was then vigorously stirred at room temperature for 12 h under nitrogen. After TLC showed that ynamide **9** was all consumed, the reaction mixture was diluted with H_2O (4 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 $\times$ 5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaCl and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Removal of solvent under reduced pressure gave crude triazole **10**, which was purified *via* silica gel flash column chromatography with EtOAc/hexane as gradient eluent to yield the pure triazole **10** as a white solid; yield: 12.6 mg (56 %).

General Procedure for Triazoles in Table 1

A stock solution of 0.5 M NaN_3 in DMSO was prepared by stirring at room temperature for 3 h. To a vial charged with 1.40 equivs. of 0.5 M NaN_3 in DMSO solution was added 1.30 equivs. of an alkyl bromide. After the mixture had been stirred for 12 h, and TLC showed that alkyl bromide was all consumed, H_2O (1/5 the total volume of DMSO used above) was added followed by 1.00 equiv. of the corresponding ynamide, 0.10 equiv. of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 0.10 equiv. of sodium ascorbate. After TLC showed the starting ynamide was all consumed, the reaction mixture was poured into dilute aqueous NH_4OH , and then extracted by EtOAc (3 $\times$ equal volumes). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaCl and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Removal of solvent under reduced pressure gave crude triazole, which was purified *via* silica gel column flash chromatography with EtOAc/hexane as gradient eluent.

Thermal Cycloadditions

To a sealed tube charged with an ynamide (1.00 equiv.) in toluene solution was added BnN_3 (1.30 equivs.). The reaction mixture was heated at 140 °C for 14 h. Removal of toluene under reduced pressure gave the crude triazole, which was purified *via* silica gel flash column chromatography with

using EtOAc/hexane as gradient eluent to yield the pure triazole.

Characterization data for triazoles and bis-triazoles prepared can be found in the Supporting Information.

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