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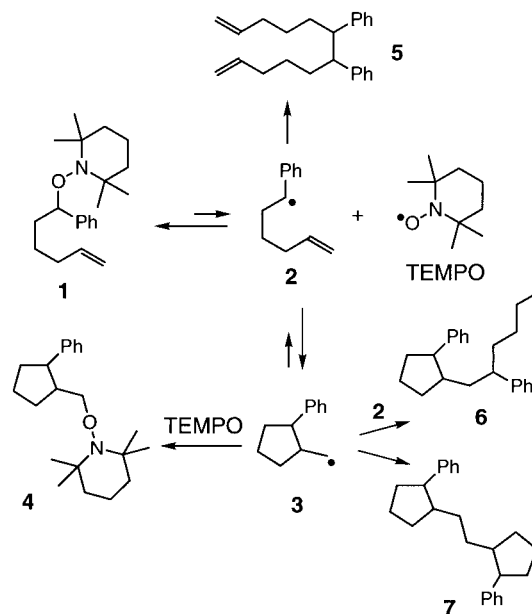
## Tin-Free Radical Cyclization Reactions Using the Persistent Radical Effect\*\*

Armido Studer\*

Organotin compounds have found widespread application in conducting various types of radical reactions.<sup>[1]</sup> Despite this important utility, there are drawbacks associated with tin-based radical chemistry, namely, toxicity of organostannanes that necessitate special handling of disposal, and in many instances problems with product purification. Therefore, various research groups have been looking for alternatives.<sup>[2]</sup> Herein we report new tin-free radical cyclization reactions based on the persistent radical effect (PRE).

The PRE<sup>[3,4]</sup> is a general principle that explains the highly specific formation of the cross-coupling product ( $R^1-R^2$ ) between two radicals  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  when one species is persistent (long-lived) and the other transient; the two radicals must be formed at equal rates. The initial buildup in concentration of the persistent species, caused by self-termination of the transient radical, steers the reaction to follow a single pathway for the cross-reaction. The PRE has already been used in various chemical systems<sup>[3,5]</sup> and is important in stable free radical polymerization (SFRP).<sup>[6]</sup>

In Scheme 1, an application of the PRE for a 5-*exo* cyclization with the 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO) radical as persistent species is suggested. It is known that  $\alpha$ -phenyl-substituted alkoxyamines such as **1** have weak C–O bonds which are homolytically cleaved upon



Scheme 1. Radical 5-*exo*-cyclization with use of the persistent 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO) radical.

heating.<sup>[6,7]</sup> C–O bond homolysis in **1** will therefore lead to the persistent TEMPO radical and the transient radical **2**.<sup>[6–10]</sup> Radical **2** can either be trapped by TEMPO to reform **1**, or it can undergo a 5-*exo* cyclization (the 6-*endo* cyclization is omitted in Scheme 1) to form a new radical **3**, which after trapping with TEMPO affords **4**. The trapping of **3** with TEMPO is irreversible, because the C–O bond in an alkoxyamine derived from TEMPO and a primary alkyl radical is too strong to be homolytically cleaved.<sup>[7]</sup> Due to the low concentration of TEMPO during the isomerization,<sup>[6b]</sup> **3** is long-lived and the cyclization from **2** to **3** is probably reversible.<sup>[11]</sup> According to the PRE, the coupling products **5–7** from the transient radicals **2** and **3** should be formed in very low yields, and the isomerization of **1** should occur almost quantitatively.<sup>[4]</sup> Furthermore, degenerate radical reactions (reversible initial C–O bond homolysis in our system) have been shown to suppress potential side reactions by reforming starting material when the desired cyclization does not proceed effectively.<sup>[5b]</sup>

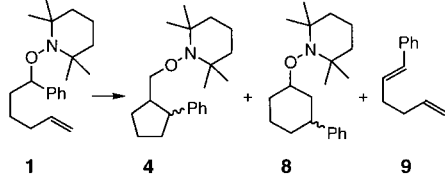
To test the concept of the PRE in cyclization reactions, alkoxyamine **1** was prepared from 1-bromo-1-phenyl-5-hexene and the Ca alkoxide (2 equiv) of 1-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine in refluxing THF (14 h, 80 %).<sup>[12,13]</sup> The isomerization reaction depicted in Scheme 1 was studied under different conditions (Table 1). In *tert*-butylbenzene and *N,N'*-dimethyl-*N,N'*-propylene urea (DMPU), no isomerization was observed (entries 1 and 2). In DMF after 16 h, **4** was isolated in 56 % yield (*trans:cis* = 2.5:1)<sup>[14]</sup> along with the 6-*endo* product **8** (10 %, *trans:cis* = 1:1; entry 3). In *t*BuOH (0.1 M) clean but slower isomerization occurred (entry 4) and lowering the concentration (0.1 M  $\rightarrow$  0.01 M) has no significant effect (entry 5). Interestingly, the reaction was accelerated by addition of camphorsulfonic acid (CSA, entry 6),<sup>[15]</sup> with the best results obtained in *t*BuOH (0.02 M) with 10 % CSA (entry 7). The isomerization products were isolated in 83 % yield along with **9** (2 %).<sup>[16]</sup>

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Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under <http://www.wiley-vch.de/home/angewandte/> or from the author.

Table 1. Isomerization of **1** under different conditions (130–132 °C, sealed tube).



Entry	Solvent	Conc. [M]	<i>t</i> [h]	<b>4</b> [%]	<b>8</b> [%]	<b>9</b> [%]
1	<i>t</i> BuPh	0.1	22	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>	20
2	DMPU	0.1	14	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>
3	DMF	0.1	16	56	10	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>
4	<i>t</i> BuOH	0.1	16	n.d. <sup>[b]</sup>	n.d. <sup>[b]</sup>	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>
5	<i>t</i> BuOH	0.01	36	n.d. <sup>[c]</sup>	n.d. <sup>[c]</sup>	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>
6	<i>t</i> BuOH	0.01	24 <sup>[d]</sup>	53	10	< 2 <sup>[a]</sup>
7	<i>t</i> BuOH	0.02	24 <sup>[d]</sup>	70	13	2

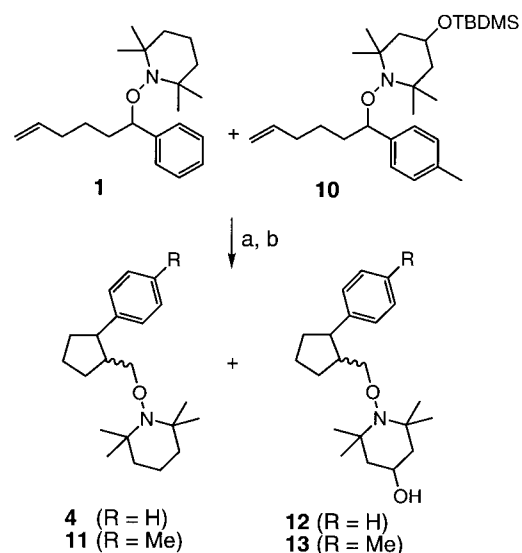
[a] In the 300-MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the crude product, no signals of the corresponding compound were observed. [b] After 16 h, 62 % of the starting material remained. Products **4** and **8** were not isolated. [c] After 36 h, about 10 % of starting material remained. Products **4** and **8** were not isolated. [d] 10 % CSA was added.

It is known that the reaction of nitroxides with various C-centered radicals is dependent on solvent, with decreasing rates in polar protic solvents.<sup>[17]</sup> Furthermore, the homolytic cleavage is faster in polar solvents.<sup>[18]</sup> These synergistic effects<sup>[6b]</sup> lead to the observed rate enhancement in the isomerization upon using polar solvents.

An ionic mechanism (C–O heterolysis) can be excluded since clean cationic isomerizations in *t*BuOH are unlikely. To further corroborate the radical nature of the process, we also conducted ESR experiments. A deoxygenated sample of **1** in *t*BuOH/*t*BuPh (1/1) containing an excess of the C-radical scavenger 2,2,10,10-tetraproterdeuteromethyl-isoindolin-15N-oxyl (10 equiv) was heated to the reaction temperature, and the evolution of the ESR signal of the TEMPO radical was followed by continuous wave (CW) ESR spectroscopy.<sup>[19]</sup> Almost 100 % of the TEMPO was generated, thus establishing initial C–O bond homolysis under these conditions.

To exclude a mechanism where isomerization occurs in a solvent cage, we also conducted a cross-over experiment. The alkoxyamines **1** and **10** (1/1 mixture) were isomerized under the optimized conditions. After desilylation, roughly equal amounts of the scrambled alkoxyamines **4** (19 %), **11** (19 %), **12** (16 %), and **13** (16 %) were isolated (Scheme 2).<sup>[20]</sup>

To further examine the scope and the limitations of the reaction, we tested whether isomerization also occurs with alkoxyamines **14a–j** (variation of substituent R, Table 2).<sup>[21–23]</sup> For bromide **14a**, a clean reaction occurred, and **15a** was isolated in 71 % (*trans*:*cis* = 2.7:1)<sup>[24]</sup> with **16a** (8 %, entry 1). Isomerization of **14b** led to **17b** (10 %), and the products **15b** and **16b** were isolated in 54 % yield (**15b**:**16b** = 5.8:1, entry 2). Clean reactions were observed for heteroarenes **14c** and **14d** (entries 3 and 4). With **14e**, no 6-*endo* product was formed, and **15e** was isolated in 67 % yield (d.r. = 1:1, entry 5) along with 10 % of **17e**. The reaction with nitrile **14f** afforded 61 % of the 5-*exo* product and 7 % of **16f** (entry 6). No isomerization occurred with **14g** (R = H), **14h**



Scheme 2. Cross-over experiment with an equimolar mixture of the alkoxyamines **1** and **10**. a) *t*BuOH (0.02 M), 130 °C, 10 % CSA, 24 h; b) TBAF, THF. TBAF = tetrabutylammonium fluoride; TBDMS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl.

R	Compound
4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	<b>a</b>
4-CH <sub>3</sub> OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	<b>b</b>
2-thienyl	<b>c</b>
2-pyridyl	<b>d</b>
<i>t</i> BuO <sub>2</sub> C	<b>e</b>
NC	<b>f</b>
H	<b>g</b>
Me	<b>h</b>
PhS	<b>i</b>
PhSO <sub>2</sub>	<b>j</b>

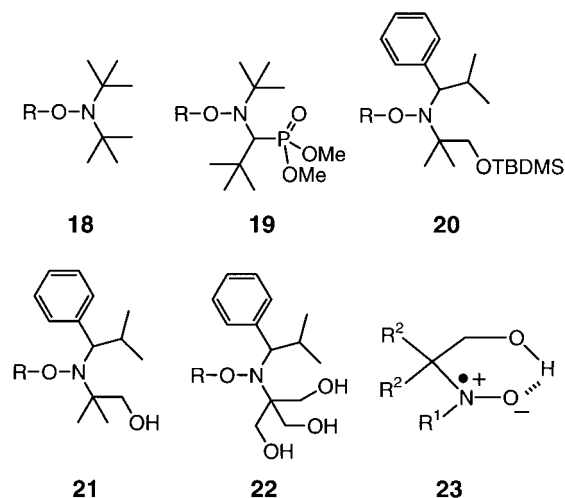
Table 2. Isomerization of **14a–f** under optimized conditions (*t*BuOH, 0.02 M, 24 h, 130–132 °C, 10 % CSA, sealed tube). Yields refer to chromatographically (SiO<sub>2</sub>) purified compounds.

Entry	Starting material	<b>15</b> [%]	d.r. ( <b>15</b> ) ( <i>trans</i> : <i>cis</i> )	<b>16</b> [%] <sup>[a]</sup>	<b>17</b> [%]
1	<b>14a</b>	71	2.7:1	8	< 2 <sup>[b]</sup>
2	<b>14b</b>	46	2.8:1	8	10
3	<b>14c</b>	67	2.1:1	11	5
4	<b>14d</b>	57	1.6:1	12	5
5	<b>14e</b>	67	1:1	< 2 <sup>[b]</sup>	10
6	<b>14f</b>	61	1.1:1 <sup>[c]</sup>	7	< 2 <sup>[b]</sup>

[a] The 6-*endo* product was formed as a 1:1 mixture of the diastereoisomers. [b] In the 300-MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the crude product, no signals of the corresponding compound were observed. [c] The relative configuration of the two isomers was not assigned.

(R = Me), and **14i** (R = SPh). It is likely that the C–O bond in **14g–i** is too strong to be effectively cleaved.<sup>[7]</sup> As expected, sulfone **14j** was not stable at higher temperatures (elimination of PhSO<sub>2</sub>H).

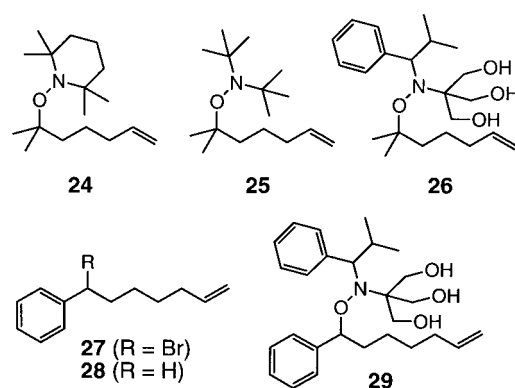
We then tested alkoxyamines **18–22** (R = 1-phenyl-5-hexenyl, variation of the nitroxide) in the isomerization.<sup>[25–28]</sup> The reactions were conducted in *t*BuOH (0.02 M) with or



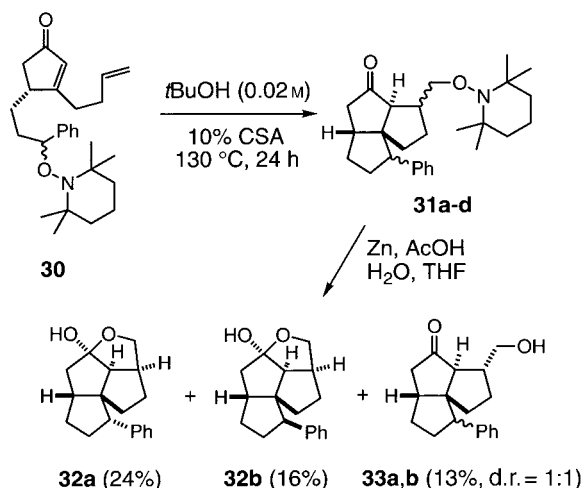
without added CSA (10%) at 130 °C, and the time necessary for complete consumption of the starting material was measured. The success of the isomerization is dependent on the bond dissociation energy (BDE) of the C–O bond (see above), which should correlate with the reaction time. The fastest isomerization (3 h) was observed for **18**. This acceleration, as compared to the cyclization of **1** (24 h with CSA), is not surprising, since it is known that alkoxyamines derived from di-*tert*-butyl nitroxide have very weak C–O bonds.<sup>[18]</sup> Only 4.5 h were necessary to completely isomerize phosphonate **19**. Addition of CSA led to decomposition of the starting alkoxyamine (for **18** and **19**).

Based on results from Ingold and Beckwith on the stabilization of nitroxides by *intermolecular* hydrogen bonding,<sup>[17]</sup> we decided to prepare new nitroxides capable of *intramolecular* hydrogen bonding (**23**).<sup>[29]</sup> In addition to decreasing the trapping rate of the nitroxide with C-centered radicals, the hydrogen bonding should also influence the rate of C–O bond homolysis (late transition state). Indeed, **21** was observed to isomerize faster (7 h; 12 h without CSA) than its silylated congener **20** (16 h with CSA). With **22**, reaction was already completed after 4 h (9 h without CSA).

The advantage of our new alkoxyamines over derivatives derived from commercially available nitroxides is documented by the failure of **24** (no reaction) and **25** (decomposition) to isomerize and by the successful isomerization of triol **26** (52 %).<sup>[30]</sup> We also conducted a slow 6-*exo* cyclization of a phenyl-stabilized radical. Reaction of **27** under Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH conditions (1.2 equiv of hydride, syringe pump, 7 h, benzene, 0.1 M) afforded only 11 % of the cyclized product besides the dehalogenation product **28**. Alkoxyamine **29**, however, yielded the corresponding 6-*exo* product in 48 % yield. An additional advantage, besides higher yield and lower toxicity in the reaction of **29** as compared to the tin hydride mediated cyclization of **27**, is the fact that the cyclization product is functionalized (protected alcohol) in the former case.



To further illustrate the potential of the method, we conducted a radical cascade reaction (Scheme 3). Enone **30**<sup>[31]</sup> was isomerized to give the angular triquinane **31** in 78 % yield as the expected mixture of stereoisomers.<sup>[32]</sup> N–O bond cleavage with Zn in AcOH/THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (3/1/1) afforded the hemiacetals **32a**, **b** (40 %) and the alcohols **33a**, **b** (13 %). The relative configuration of the major isomer **32a** was assigned by X-ray crystallographic analysis.<sup>[33]</sup>



Scheme 3. Radical cascade reaction.

In conclusion, the new tin-free radical cyclization reactions afford products which can be considered as protected alcohol derivatives.

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## Pseudoprolines: Targeting a *cis* Conformation in a Mimetic of the gp120 V3 Loop of HIV-1\*\*

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Pseudoprolines ( $\Psi$ Pro) have been introduced recently as synthetic proline analogues readily obtained by cyclocondensation of the amino acids cysteine, threonine, or serine with aldehydes or ketones.<sup>[1]</sup> Their application as structure-disrupting, solubilizing protecting groups in solid-phase peptide synthesis<sup>[2, 3]</sup> was followed by conformational investigations concerning the  $\Psi$ Pro preceding peptide bond.<sup>[4, 5]</sup> In fact, the propensity of the amino acid proline for forming a Xaa<sub>*i*−1</sub>-Pro<sub>*i*</sub>

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