



# Transition-metal chloride mediated addition reaction of diorganomagnesium to easily enolizable ketones

Mutsumi Sada, Sejiro Matsubara\*

Department of Material Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoutodaigaku-katsura, Nishikyo, Kyoto 615-8510, Japan

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 5 January 2011

Received in revised form 31 January 2011

Accepted 1 February 2011

Available online 5 March 2011

### Keywords:

Grignard reagent

Diorganomagnesium

Organocerium

Organoytterbium

Organoiron

## ABSTRACT

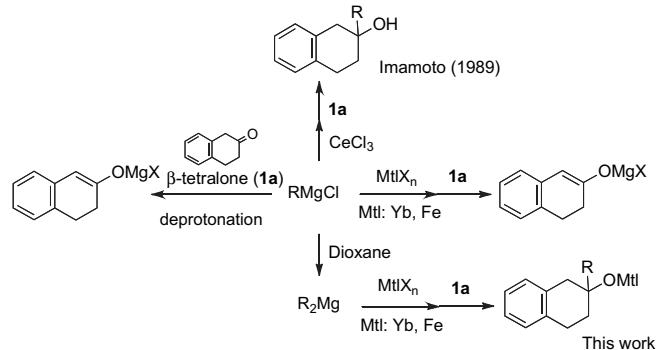
An alkylation to an easily enolizable ketone, such as  $\beta$ -tetralone, is difficult to perform with Grignard reagent ( $RMgX$ ) or with diorganomagnesium ( $R_2Mg$ ), because a deprotonation to form a magnesium enolate occurs predominantly. To avoid the prior enolization, a complex reagent of a transition-metal salt and  $R_2Mg$  was examined: A combination of  $R_2Mg$  with iron(II) chloride ( $FeCl_2$ ) or ytterbium(III) chloride ( $YbCl_3$ ) gave a complex reagent that can realize a nucleophilic reaction to  $\beta$ -tetralone prior to the enolization. A combination of  $RMgX$  with these metal salts is inferior to a combination of  $R_2Mg$  with them to obtain the nucleophilic complex reagent.

© 2011 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

## 1. Introduction

Organomagnesium reagents have frequently been used for C–C bond forming reactions; examples include their nucleophilic addition to carbonyl compounds.<sup>1</sup> While they show high potential as carbon nucleophiles, they also work as bases to some carbonyl compounds, which are classified as easily enolizable ketones. In the reactions with these ketones, a deprotonation occurs preferentially to give magnesium enolates. To suppress this undesired side reaction, a complex reagent, which consists of Grignard reagent and a metal halide, has been developed.<sup>2,3</sup> For example, it was reported by Imamoto that the complex reagent, which was prepared from cerium(III) chloride ( $CeCl_3$ ) and Grignard reagent ( $RMgX$ ), was used as an efficient nucleophile for the addition to an easily enolizable ketone, such as  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**).<sup>3</sup> In this  $CeCl_3$ -mediated reaction, we had shown that diorganomagnesium ( $R_2Mg$ ) was superior to  $RMgX$  from the viewpoint of efficiency in the preparation of the complex reagent.<sup>4</sup> Such efficiency, coming from use of  $R_2Mg$  instead of  $RMgX$ , would also enable another transition-metal salt to form the corresponding complex reagent, so treatment of some transition-metal salts with  $R_2Mg$  was examined to obtain the reagent that can perform the addition to  $\beta$ -tetralone prior to enolization. Among them, treatment of ytterbium(III) chloride ( $YbCl_3$ )<sup>4</sup> or iron(II) chloride ( $FeCl_2$ )<sup>5</sup> with

$R_2Mg$  gave the reagents, which were effective for the nucleophilic addition to  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**). The ketone **1a** is one of the most difficult substrates for organomagnesium and organolithium reagent to perform a nucleophilic addition owing to their high acidity. Therefore, the reagent, which can attack  $\beta$ -tetralone smoothly, would perform an efficient nucleophilic addition with versatile easily enolizable ketones. We wish to discuss about these complex reagents prepared from  $R_2Mg$  and transition-metal salts (Fig. 1).

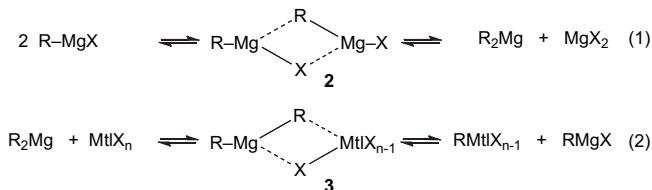


**Fig. 1.** Enolization and addition in reactions of  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**) with the reagent from organomagnesium and transition-metal salts.

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 75 383 7130; fax: +81 75 383 2438; e-mail address: [matsubar@orgrxn.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:matsubar@orgrxn.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp) (S. Matsubara).

## 2. Results and discussion

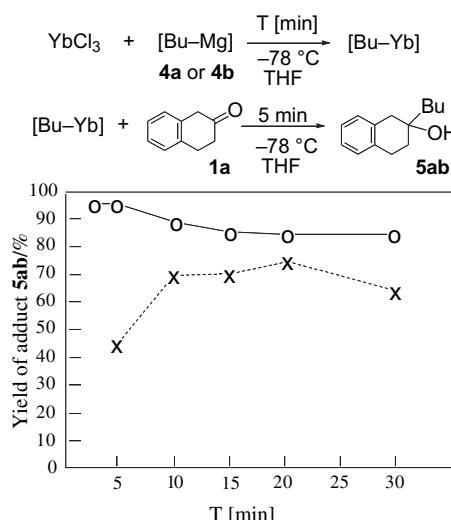
It is well known that Grignard reagent from an organic halide and magnesium metal exists under Schlenk equilibrium between  $\text{RMgX}$  and  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  in a solution (Eq. 1, Scheme 1).<sup>6</sup> Analogously, it can be surmised that another equilibrium would be induced by treatment of a metal halide with a  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  as a hetero-Schlenk equilibrium (Eq. 2 Scheme 1). The following experiments were performed based on this assumption.



**Scheme 1.** Schlenk equilibrium of Grignard reagent and hetero-Schlenk equilibrium.

In general, depending on the metal salt, the preparation of a complex reagent with  $\text{RMgX}$  does not always work well. For example, while the treatment of  $\text{CeCl}_3$  with  $\text{RMgX}$  was reported to give a nucleophilic reagent, that of  $\text{YbCl}_3$  did not afford the reagent efficiently.<sup>7,8</sup> Considering the equations in Scheme 1, we supposed that the use of  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  instead of  $\text{RMgX}$  should be advantageous to a formation of the initial complex **3**, which can lead to transmetalation. So, it should be possible to prepare the reagent more efficiently by treatment of a transition-metal salt with  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$ , rather than with  $\text{RMgX}$ .<sup>9</sup>

The complex reagents, which were obtained from treatment of  $\text{YbCl}_3$  with  $\text{RMgX}$  or  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  for various aging periods ( $T$  [min]) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , were treated with  $\beta$ -tetralone. In Fig. 2, the yield of the adduct **5ab** in each reaction was plotted. The detailed procedure was as follows. The commercially available  $\text{YbCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.0 mmol with **4a**; 2.0 mmol with **4b**) was dried in vacuo at  $140^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h. To the dried salt, 5 mL of anhydrous THF was added under Ar atmosphere, and the mixture was sonicated for 0.5 h using an ultrasonic cleaner. The obtained suspension was cooled at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , and *n*-butylmagnesium reagent (*n*-BuMgBr (**4a**): 1.2 M in ether, 2.0 mmol; *n*-Bu<sub>2</sub>Mg (**4b**): 0.5 M in ether, 1.0 mmol) was added. After the mixture was stirred for the various aging periods ( $T$  [min]) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**,



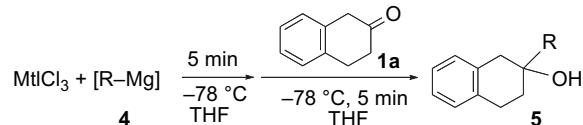
**Fig. 2.** The yields of the butylation reaction of  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**) with the complex reagent prepared from butylmagnesium and ytterbium(III) chloride (—o—:  $n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg} + \text{YbCl}_3$ ; —x—:  $n\text{-BuMgBr} + \text{YbCl}_3$ ) under various aging periods ( $T$  [min]).

1.0 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred for 5 min at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , and quenched with 1 M aqueous HCl. As ketone **1a** is easily enolized by  $\text{RMgX}$  or  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$ , the formation of the complex reagent can be monitored by the yield of the adduct **5ab**. The period for the preparation of the complex reagent from  $\text{YbCl}_3 - n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$ , which gave the best yield of **5ab**, was 5 min, while that of  $\text{YbCl}_3 - n\text{-BuMgBr}$  was 20 min. From these observations, we could conclude that the formation of the complex reagent, which performed the nucleophilic addition preferentially, was accomplished more efficiently with the use of  $n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$ .

The difference of the efficiency between  $\text{RMgX}$  and  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  in the preparation of the Yb-complex reagents was also examined in various organomagnesium reagents (Table 1). The complex reagent was prepared by treatment of  $\text{YbCl}_3$  with organomagnesium **4** in THF at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min and then reacted with  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**). As shown in Table 1, use of  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  for a preparation of Yb-complex reagents gave better yields than that of  $\text{RMgX}$  in all cases. Especially in the case of  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Mg}$ , the efficiency was remarkable (entries 5 and 6), and treatment of  $\text{YbCl}_3$  with vinylmagnesium showed slight difference between  $\text{RMgX}$  and  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  (entries 7 and 8). It should be also noted that the efficiency of using  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  was also observed in the combination with  $\text{CeCl}_3$  (entries 9 and 10).

**Table 1**

The addition of organomagnesium– $\text{YbCl}_3$  or  $\text{CeCl}_3$  to  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**)<sup>a</sup>



Entry	$\text{MtlCl}_3$	$[\text{R-Mg}]^b$	5 (%)
1	—	$n\text{-BuMgBr}$ <b>4a</b>	9 ( <b>5ab</b> )
2	—	$n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$ <b>4b</b>	7 ( <b>5ab</b> )
3	$\text{YbCl}_3$	$n\text{-BuMgBr}$ <b>4a</b>	44 ( <b>5ab</b> )
4	$\text{YbCl}_3$	$n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$ <b>4b</b>	98 ( <b>5ab</b> )
5	$\text{YbCl}_3$	$\text{PhMgBr}$ <b>4c</b> <sup>c</sup>	9 ( <b>5cd</b> )
6	$\text{YbCl}_3$	$\text{Ph}_2\text{Mg}$ <b>4d</b> <sup>d</sup>	74 ( <b>5cd</b> )
7	$\text{YbCl}_3$	$\text{CH}_2=\text{CHMgBr}$ <b>4e</b>	89 ( <b>5ef</b> )
8	$\text{YbCl}_3$	$(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{Mg}$ <b>4f</b>	94 ( <b>5ef</b> )
9	$\text{CeCl}_3$	$n\text{-BuMgBr}$ <b>4a</b>	66 ( <b>5ab</b> )
10	$\text{CeCl}_3$	$n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$ <b>4b</b>	81 ( <b>5ab</b> )

<sup>a</sup>  $\text{YbCl}_3$  (3.0 mmol),  $\text{RMgBr}$  (2.0 mmol),  $\beta$ -tetralone (1.0 mmol), and THF (6 mL) were used;  $\text{YbCl}_3$  (2.0 mmol),  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  (1.0 mmol),  $\beta$ -tetralone (1.0 mmol), and THF (6 mL) were used.

<sup>b</sup>  $\text{RMgX}$  was prepared in ether except vinylmagnesium bromide (**4e**). The reagent **4e** was prepared in THF.  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  was prepared by addition of 1,4-dioxane to an ethereal solution of  $\text{RMgX}$ .<sup>6,10</sup>

<sup>c</sup> When the complex reagent was prepared from  $\text{PhMgBr}$  and  $\text{YbCl}_3$  for 15 min at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , the yield of **5cd** was 28%.

<sup>d</sup> When the complex reagent was prepared from  $\text{Ph}_2\text{Mg}$  and  $\text{YbCl}_3$  for 15 min at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , the yield of **5cd** was 98%.

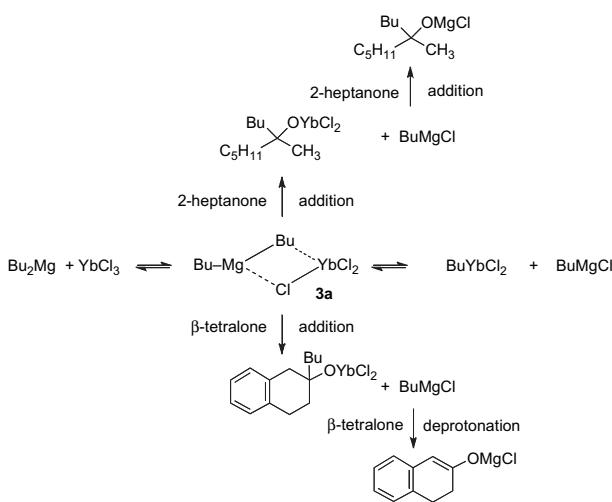
We did the following experiments in order to get any information about the reagent as shown in Table 2. The complex reagent was treated with an excess amount of a ketone. Treatment of  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**, 3.0 mmol) with the complex reagent, prepared from  $\text{YbCl}_3$  (2.0 mmol)– $n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$  (1.0 mmol), afforded 0.98 mmol of the adduct **5** (entry 1). In other words, only one butyl group of  $n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$  could react as a nucleophile in the reaction of the complex reagent. As shown in entry 2, treatment of 2-heptanone (**1b**, 3.0 mmol) with the same reagent gave 1.66 mmol of the corresponding adduct. The result showed that both butyl groups in  $n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Mg}$  could act as nucleophile in the reaction with 2-heptanone (**1b**). In entries 3 and 4, the results using  $\text{YbCl}_3$  (4.0 mmol)– $n\text{-BuMgBr}$  (2.0 mmol) are shown. Less than half (45%) of Grignard reagent could work as nucleophile to  $\beta$ -tetralone (**1a**), while 79% of the initially added Grignard reagent reacted with 2-heptanone (**1b**).

**Table 2**Treatment of the reagent with excess amount of a ketone<sup>a</sup>

Entry	4a or 4b/[mmol]	YbCl <sub>3</sub> [mmol]	T [min]	1/[mmol]	Adduct [mmol]	
					YbCl <sub>3</sub> + [Bu-Mg] 4a or 4b	-78 °C THF, T [min] → R' - OH
1	n-Bu <sub>2</sub> Mg/1.0	2.0	5	β-Tetralone/3.0	0.98	
2	n-Bu <sub>2</sub> Mg/1.0	2.0	5	2-Heptanone/3.0	1.66	
3	n-BuMgBr/2.0	4.0	20	β-Tetralone/3.0	0.89	
4	n-BuMgBr/2.0	4.0	20	2-Heptanone/3.0	1.58	

<sup>a</sup> YbCl<sub>3</sub> (4.0 mmol), n-BuMgBr (2.0 mmol), ketone (3.0 mmol), and THF (10 mL) were used; YbCl<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mmol), n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Mg (1.0 mmol), ketone (3.0 mmol), and THF (6 mL) were used.

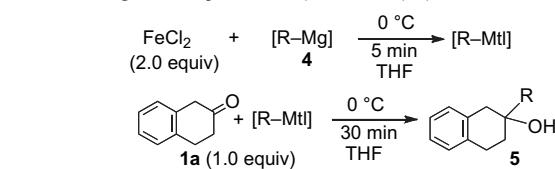
The results in Table 2 can be explained as follows. As shown in Fig. 3, n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Mg and YbCl<sub>3</sub> form a complex **3a**. A reaction of **3a** with β-tetralone will afford not only the adduct but also n-BuMgCl; the latter works as a base for the highly enolizable β-tetralone (**1a**) to form an enolate. On the other hand, the complex reagent **3a** also reacts with 2-heptanone (**1b**) to afford the corresponding adduct and n-BuMgCl; the latter can undergo a butylation to 2-heptanone (**1b**). These results implied that the nucleophilic reagent may be the complex **3a**. We cannot omit the formation of n-BuYbCl<sub>2</sub> from **3a**. In this case, however, it accompanies the equimolar amount n-BuMgCl, which interrupts the butylation of β-tetralone. The use of n-BuMgBr showed the same tendency as that of n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Mg (entries 3 and 4 in Table 2). Considering the Schlenk equilibrium of Grignard reagent (Eq. 1, Scheme 1), it is plausible that the complexation of n-BuMgBr with YbCl<sub>3</sub> would also proceed via n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Mg.

**Fig. 3.** Plausible pathway of the addition reaction of the complex reagent **3a** with ketones.

To explore a nucleophilic complex reagent made from Me<sub>2</sub>Mg (**4g**) and some other metal salts, we examined the fourth periodical transition-metal salts in the same addition reaction. As shown in Scheme 2, FeCl<sub>2</sub>–Me<sub>2</sub>Mg gave the best result among them.<sup>11</sup> A combination with β-titanium(III) chloride (β-TiCl<sub>3</sub>)<sup>12,13</sup> showed a compatible result. Except for these two metal salts, the others did not show any improvement of the yield of the adduct **5g**, compared with the yield of the reaction using Me<sub>2</sub>Mg solely.<sup>14</sup>

The detailed studies for the formation of FeCl<sub>2</sub>–methylmagnesium reagent are summarized in Table 3. Reaction of **1a** with MeMgI (**4h**) or Me<sub>2</sub>Mg (**4g**) did not afford the adduct **5g** in a reasonable yield,

MtI <sub>n</sub> (2.0 equiv)	+ Me <sub>2</sub> Mg <b>4g</b> (1.5 equiv)	0 °C 5 min THF	[Me–MtI]
1a (1.0 equiv)	[Me–MtI]	0 °C 30 min THF	
CaCl <sub>2</sub>	TiCl <sub>3</sub>	VCl <sub>3</sub>	CrCl <sub>3</sub>
33%	68%	34%	4%
10%	70%		
nd	nd	6%	nd
		nd	34%

**Scheme 2.** The yields of **5g** in the reaction of **1a** and the reagents prepared from Me<sub>2</sub>Mg and the fourth periodical transition-metal salts (nd: not detected).**Table 3**Reaction of organoiron species with β-tetralone (**1a**)<sup>a</sup>

Entry	[Me–Mg]/equiv	FeCl <sub>2</sub> /equiv	<b>5</b> (%)	<b>1a</b> (%)
1	MeMgI ( <b>4h</b> )/1.5	—	24	70
2	Me <sub>2</sub> Mg ( <b>4g</b> )/1.5	—	34	65
3	MeMgI ( <b>4h</b> )/1.5	2.0	12	84
4	MeMgI ( <b>4h</b> )/3.0	2.0	41	54
5	Me <sub>2</sub> Mg ( <b>4g</b> )/1.5 <sup>b,c</sup>	2.0	70	30
6	n-Bu <sub>2</sub> Mg ( <b>4b</b> )/1.5	2.0	<5 <sup>d</sup>	20
7	Ph <sub>2</sub> Mg ( <b>4d</b> )/1.5	2.0	46	51

<sup>a</sup> Anhydrous FeCl<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mmol), organomagnesium (1.5, or 3.0 mmol), and β-tetralone (**1a**, 1.0 mmol) were used. The preparation of the reagent was performed at 0 °C for 5 min. The yield of the product was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR after aqueous work-up using bromoform as an internal standard.

<sup>b</sup> The preparation of the reagent was examined at –20 °C for 5 min. The adduct **5g** was obtained in 57% yield with 43% recovery.

<sup>c</sup> The preparation of the reagent was examined at 0 °C for 10 min. The adduct **5g** was obtained in 56% yield with 37% recovery.

<sup>d</sup> Reduced product (R=H) was obtained in 62% yield.

as an enolization occurred predominantly to give a recovery of the substrate (entries 1, 2). Treatment of **1a** with the mixture of FeCl<sub>2</sub> and MeMgI did not improve the yield of **5g** (entries 3 and 4). On the contrary, a reagent from FeCl<sub>2</sub> and Me<sub>2</sub>Mg gave the adduct **5g** in 70% yield (entry 5). From these observations, we can conclude that the formation of iron–organomagnesium complex reagent proceeds more efficiently with Me<sub>2</sub>Mg. Analogously, n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Mg (**4b**) was used instead of Me<sub>2</sub>Mg (**4g**). The main product was an adduct of hydride. The use of Ph<sub>2</sub>Mg gave the corresponding adduct in 46% yield.

FeCl<sub>2</sub>–Me<sub>2</sub>Mg was also examined in the reaction of cycloalkenone (**6**).<sup>15</sup> While a reaction of cyclohexenone (**6a**) with Me<sub>2</sub>Mg gave the corresponding 1,2-adduct **7a** predominantly, it was shown that treatment of **6a** with FeCl<sub>2</sub>–Me<sub>2</sub>Mg reagent gave the 1,4-adduct **8a** selectively (entries 2 and 3). The reaction with cycloheptenone **6b** also gave 1,4-adduct **8b** (entry 4). The different reactivities clearly show the formation of the complex reagent.

The nucleophilicity of FeCl<sub>2</sub>–Me<sub>2</sub>Mg reagent was examined by a reaction with ketoester **9**. A reaction of **9** with FeCl<sub>2</sub>–Me<sub>2</sub>Mg gave the corresponding hydroxy ester **10**, while that with Me<sub>2</sub>Mg gave the diol **11**. These results mean that the reactivity of FeCl<sub>2</sub>–Me<sub>2</sub>Mg is weaker than that of Me<sub>2</sub>Mg (Scheme 3).<sup>16</sup> The efficient addition of iron reagent to the highly enolizable ketone **1a** in Table 3 was owing to the suppressed basicity (Table 4).

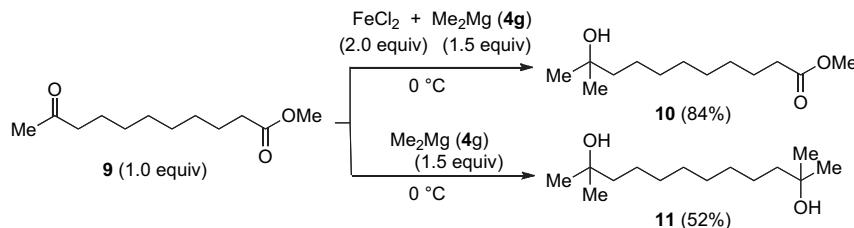
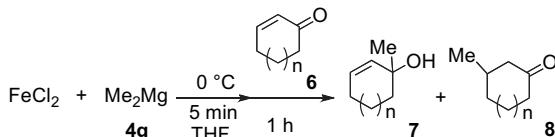
Scheme 3. Reaction of  $\text{FeCl}_2$ – $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}$  and  $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}$  with ketoester **9**.

Table 4

Reaction of cycloalkenone (**6**) with  $\text{FeCl}_2$ – $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}$  (**4d**)<sup>a</sup>

Entry	$\text{FeCl}_2$ (equiv)	Enone (1.0 equiv)	<b>4g</b> (equiv)	<b>7</b> (%)	<b>8</b> (%)
1	—	<b>6a</b> ( <i>n</i> =1)	1.5	68 ( <b>7a</b> )	13 ( <b>8a</b> )
2	2.0	<b>6a</b> ( <i>n</i> =1)	1.5	nd ( <b>7a</b> )	77 ( <b>8a</b> )
3	1.2	<b>6a</b> ( <i>n</i> =1)	1.2	nd ( <b>7a</b> )	80 ( <b>8a</b> )
4	1.2	<b>6b</b> ( <i>n</i> =2)	1.2	nd ( <b>7b</b> )	62 ( <b>8b</b> )

<sup>a</sup> Anhydrous  $\text{FeCl}_2$  (2.0 mmol), organomagnesium (1.5, or 3.0 mmol), and cycloalkenone (**6**, 1.0 mmol) were used. The preparation of the reagent was performed at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min. The yield of the product was determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR after aqueous work-up using bromoform as an internal standard.

### 3. Conclusion

The 1,2-addition of Grignard reagent to a highly enolizable ketone prior to enolization is difficult process and has been performed by its mixture with stoichiometric amount of transition-metal salt. In this method, a transformation of Grignard reagent into the corresponding complex reagent should be accomplished efficiently, otherwise remaining Grignard reagent would induce enolization. To facilitate the formation of the complex reagent, we proposed a use of  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  instead of  $\text{RMgX}$ . We thought that a complexation between Grignard reagent and transition-metal salt proceeds via  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$ , which is formed from  $\text{RMgX}$  through Schlenk equilibrium. Actually, combination of  $\text{R}_2\text{Mg}$  and  $\text{YbCl}_3$  gave the corresponding complex reagent efficiently, which performed 1,2-addition to a highly enolizable ketone,  $\beta$ -tetralone. It was also shown that treatment of  $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}$  with  $\text{FeCl}_2$  gave the reagent, which also added 1,2-manner to  $\beta$ -tetralone. The reagent could not be prepared efficiently from  $\text{MeMgI}$  and  $\text{FeCl}_2$ .

Thus, the efficient complexation between diorganomagnesium and transition-metal salt will easily give us useful complex organometallic reagents which had difficulty for preparation from organomagnesium halide.

### 4. Experimental section

#### 4.1. General

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were taken on Varian UNITY INOVA 500 ( $^1\text{H}$ , 500 MHz;  $^{13}\text{C}$ , 125.7 MHz) spectrometer using tetramethylsilane for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR as an internal standard ( $\delta=0$  ppm),  $\text{CDCl}_3$  for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR as an internal standard ( $\delta=77.0$  ppm).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet, quint=quintet, sext=sextet, sept=septet, br=broad, m=multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. Flash column chromatography was carried out using Kanto Chemical silica gel (spherical, 40–100  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

Unless otherwise noted, commercially available reagents were used without purification. Tetrahydrofuran, Dehydrated stabilizer free—Super—was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co., stored under argon, and used as it is.

#### 4.2. Reaction of $\text{FeCl}_2$ – $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}$ reagent with ketones

The commercially available anhydrous  $\text{FeCl}_2$  (2.0 mmol) was charged with 4.0 mL of anhydrous THF, and the mixture was sonicated for 0.5 h using an ultrasonic cleaner. The obtained suspension was cooled at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , and  $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}$  (1.0 mmol) was added. After the mixture was stirred for 5 min at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , ketone (1.0 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , and quenched with 1 M aqueous HCl.

**4.2.1. 2-Butyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-ol (5ab):**<sup>17</sup> CAS RN [91671-46-4]. Pale yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.15–7.09 (m, 3H), 7.09–7.04 (m, 1H), 3.00 (ddd,  $J=16.5, 9.5, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d,  $J=16.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.83–2.77 (m, 1H), 2.78 (d,  $J=16.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.90–1.83 (m, 1H), 1.79 (ddd,  $J=13.0, 9.5, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.64–1.53 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.41 (m, 2H, 1H), 1.40–1.31 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t,  $J=7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.6, 134.6, 129.7, 128.7, 125.9, 125.8, 70.9, 42.0, 41.2, 33.7, 26.1, 25.3, 23.3, 14.1. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

**4.2.2. 2-Phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-ol (5cd):**<sup>18</sup> CAS RN [78318-01-1]. Pale yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.15 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.10 (m, 1H), 3.35 (d,  $J=17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.12 (ddd,  $J=16.5, 10.0, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd,  $J=16.5, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dt,  $J=17.0, 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.28 (ddd,  $J=13.0, 10.5, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.15–2.08 (m, 1H), 1.92 (br s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.6, 135.3, 134.4, 129.4, 128.8, 128.3, 127.1, 126.1, 126.0, 124.8, 72.5, 43.7, 35.4, 26.3. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

**4.2.3. 2-Vinyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-ol (5ef):**<sup>19</sup> CAS RN [102936-18-5]. Pale yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.15–7.10 (m, 3H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 1H), 6.07 (dd,  $J=17.5, 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.33 (dd,  $J=17.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.12 (dd,  $J=10.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.04–3.00 (m, 1H), 3.01 (d,  $J=17.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.87–2.79 (m, 1H), 2.84 (d,  $J=17.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.97–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  144.1, 135.2, 134.0, 129.4, 128.7, 126.0, 125.9, 112.6, 71.2, 41.8, 34.1, 26.1. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

**4.2.4. 2-Methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-ol (5g):**<sup>13</sup> CAS RN [33223-85-7]. Pale yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.14–7.09 (m, 3H), 7.08–7.04 (m, 1H), 3.01 (ddd,  $J=16.5, 9.0, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d,  $J=17.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.87–2.79 (m, 1H), 2.82 (d,  $J=17.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.93–1.86 (m, 1H), 1.84–1.76 (m, 1H), 1.36 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.3, 134.8, 123.0, 128.9, 126.2, 126.1, 69.4, 43.8, 36.0, 28.9, 26.6. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

**4.2.5. Methyl 10-oxoundecanoate (9):**<sup>20</sup> CAS RN [18993-09-4]. Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.65 (s, 3H), 2.40 (t,  $J=8.0$  Hz,

2H), 2.28 (t,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.64–1.50 (m, 4H), 1.33–1.20 (m, 8H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  209.3, 174.2, 51.4, 43.7, 34.0, 29.8, 29.1, 29.0, 29.0, 24.9, 23.8. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

**4.2.6. Methyl 10-hydroxy-10-methylundecanoate (10):**<sup>21</sup> CAS RN [341534–66–5]. Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.66 (s, 3H), 2.30 (t,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.68–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.42 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.25 (m, 10H), 1.20 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.3, 71.0, 51.4, 43.9, 34.1, 30.1, 29.4, 29.2, 29.2, 29.1, 24.9, 24.3. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

**4.2.7. 2,11-Dimethyldodecane-2,11-diol (11):**<sup>22</sup> CAS RN [22092–59–7]. Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.48–1.43 (m, 4H), 1.37–1.23 (m, 12H), 1.21 (s, 12H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  71.0, 43.9, 30.1, 29.5, 29.2, 24.3. The product was identified with the authentic sample.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported financially by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

## References and notes

1. Silverman, G. S.; Rabita, P. E. *Handbook of Grignard Reagents*; Marcel Dekker: New York, NY, 1996.
2. (a) Kauffmann, T. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1996**, *35*, 386–403; (b) Kauffmann, T.; Nienaber, H. *Synthesis* **1995**, 207–211.
3. Imamoto, T.; Takiyama, N.; Nakamura, K.; Hatajima, T.; Kamiya, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 4392–4398.
4. Matsubara, S.; Ikeda, T.; Oshima, K.; Utimoto, K. *Chem. Lett.* **2001**, *30*, 1226–1227.
5. Sada, M.; Matsubara, S. *Chem. Lett.* **2008**, *37*, 800–801.
6. Schlenk, W.; Schlenk, W. *Ber. Dtsch. Chem. Ges.* **1929**, *62*, 920–924.
7. Utimoto, K.; Nakamura, A.; Matsubara, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 8189–8190.
8. Molander, G. A.; Burkhardt, E. R.; Weinig, P. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, *55*, 4990–4991.
9. Combination of  $\text{Bu}_2\text{Mg}$  and zirconocene: Knight, K. S.; Wang, D.; Waymouth, R. M.; Ziller, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 1845–1854.
10. Cowan, D. O.; Mosher, H. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1962**, *27*, 1–5.
11. (a) Fürstner, A.; Krause, H.; Lehmann, C. W. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 440–444; (b) Fürstner, A.; Martin, R. *Chem. Lett.* **2005**, *34*, 624–629.
12. Hermes, A. R.; Girolami, G. S. *Inorg. Synth.* **1998**, *32*, 309–310.
13. Reetz, M. T.; Kyung, S. H.; Hüllmann, M. *Tetrahedron* **1986**, *42*, 2931–2935.
14. (a) Hatano, M.; Suzuki, S.; Ishihara, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 9998–9999; (b) Hatano, M.; Suzuki, S.; Ishihara, K. *Synlett* **2010**, 321–324; (c) Hatano, M.; Ito, O.; Suzuki, S.; Ishihara, K. *Chem. Commun.* **2010**, *46*, 2674–2676.
15. (a) Kauffmann, T.; Hülsdünker, A.; Menges, D.; Nienaber, H.; Rethmeier, L.; Robbe, S.; Scherler, D.; Schricker, J.; Wingbermühle, D. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1990**, *31*, 1553–1556; (b) Kharasch, M. S.; Tawney, P. O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1941**, *63*, 2308–2316.
16. Treatment of ethyl benzoate with the reagent ( $\text{Me}_2\text{Mg}-\text{FeCl}_2$ ), which was prepared as shown in **Scheme 3** gave 2-phenyl-2-peopanol in 6% yield with 84% recovery of ethyl benzoate.
17. Imamoto, T.; Kusumoto, T.; Tawarayama, Y.; Sugiura, Y.; Mita, T.; Hatanaka, Y.; Yokoyama, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **1984**, *49*, 3904–3912.
18. Zhou, B.; Wagner, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 6796–6799.
19. Smith, T. H.; Fujiwara, A. N.; Lee, W. W.; Helen, Y.; Henry, D. W. *J. Org. Chem.* **1977**, *42*, 3653–3663.
20. Lie, M. S. F.; Jie, K.; Leung, D. W. Y. *Lipids* **1990**, *25*, 1–5.
21. Kitano, Y.; Chiba, K.; Tada, M. *Synthesis* **2001**, 437–443.
22. Charbonneau, L. F. *J. Polym. Sci., Polym. Chem. Ed.* **1978**, *16*, 197–212.