

Functionalization of 6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole with Carbonyl Compounds via TDAE Methodology

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Abstract: We report herein the synthesis of substituted 2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-aryl ethanols and 2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-propionic acid ethyl esters from the reaction of 5-chloromethyl-6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole with various aromatic carbonyl and α -carbonyl ester derivatives using the tetrakis(dimethylamino)ethylene (TDAE) methodology.

Keywords: TDAE, Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole, Arylethanols, Carbonyl derivatives.

Introduction

Many therapeutically important arylethanolamines [1] (isoprenaline, salbutamol, etc.) have a wide range of activities, including α,β -adrenoreceptor and monoamine reuptake binding affinities. Regulation of these sites has been sought in the treatment of high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, anxiety, depression, etc. Consequently, in light of these therapeutically important activities, this class of compounds has attracted the attention of organic chemists.

Scheme 1.

Tetrakis(dimethylamino)ethylene (TDAE) is a reducing agent which reacts with halogenated derivatives to generate an anion under mild conditions via a single electron transfer (SET) [2-4]. We have recently shown that TDAE could generate a nitrobenzyl carbanion from o- or p-nitrobenzyl chloride which is able to react with various electrophiles such as aromatic aldehydes [5] or pyruvate derivatives [6]. In continuation of our program directed toward the study of single electron transfer reactions of bioreductive alkylating agents and the preparation of new potentially bioactive compounds [7-9], we report herein the synthesis of substituted 2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-arylethanols and 2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-propionic acid ethyl esters from the reactions of 5-chloromethyl-6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole with various aromatic carbonyl and α -carbonyl ester derivatives using the TDAE methodology. This reactivity was the first step of the synthesis of a new class of arylethanolamine analogs (deprotection of dioxole and reduction of nitro group).

Results and Discussion

(6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)methanol (1) treated with thionyl chloride in dichloromethane gives 5-chloromethyl-6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole (2) in 95% yield [10] (Scheme 2).

This chloro derivative 2 is a good candidate for generating a 6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole anion in an easy, original and mild method using TDAE. Thus, derivative 2 reacts with aromatic aldehydes 3a-g in the presence of TDAE to form substituted 2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-arylethanols 4a-g in moderate to good yields, as shown in Scheme 3 and Table 1. As shown in the p-nitrobenzyl series [7], aldehydes with electron-withdrawing groups such as nitro (68 and 56%) or trifluoromethyl (56%) are more reactive than aldehydes substituted with an electron-donor group such as methyl (for example, 3d, 23%). Under the same experimental conditions, we have studied the reaction of derivative 2 with 4-nitroacetophenone (3h) in presence of TDAE. After 2 h at room temperature, TLC analysis (dichloromethane as eluent) clearly showed that 2 was not totally consumed and the starting material was only totally consumed after 24 h of reaction at room temperature. This fact was in accord with Médebielle's results [3] and may be explained by the difference of reactivity between aldehydes and ketones. Moreover, after the reaction with aromatic carbonyl derivatives, we have investigated the reaction of the 6-nitrobenzo [1,3] dioxole anion with α -keto-ester derivatives as methyl pyruvate (3i), ethyl glyoxylate (3j), diethyl ketomalonate (3k) and methyl isatin (3l). The reaction of 2 in presence of TDAE with these electrophiles furnished the corresponding α -hydroxy-ester **4i-k** or α -hydroxy-lactam 41 derivatives in moderate to good yields (43-84%) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Reaction of chloride 2 and carbonyl compounds using TDAE^a.

Entry	Carbonyl compound	Product	Product number	Reaction time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
a	O_2N	OH OH NO ₂	4a	2	68
b	CI—	OH OH	4 b	2	28
c	$N \equiv C \longrightarrow H$	OH OH CN	4 c	2	40
d	H ₃ C — H	OHO2 OH CH3	4d	2	23
e	NO ₂ H	OH NO2	4 e	2	56
f	CF ₃	OH CF ₃	4f	2	56
g	NO ₂	OH OH O	4g	2	34
h	O_2N CH_3	O NO ₂ OH NO ₂	4h	24	40
i	H ₃ C OCH ₂ CH ₃	OCH ₂ CH ₃	4 i	2	75
j	O H OCH₂CH₃	OH OCH ₂ CH ₃	4j	2	84
k	O OCH ₂ CH ₃	NO ₂ O HO OCH ₂ CH ₃ H ₃ CH ₂ CO	4k	2	63

Entry	Carbonyl compound	Product	Product number	Reaction time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1		NO ₂ O CH ₃	41	2	43

Table 1. Cont.

The mechanism of these reactions appears to proceed *via* an initially formed charge-transfer complex between chloride **2** and TDAE, followed by stepwise single-electron transfers of two electrons from TDAE to chloride **2** to form TDAE²⁺ and the anion of **2** which reacts by nucleophilic addition on carbonyl compounds **3a-l**.

Conclusions

We have demonstrated in this work that 5-chloromethyl-6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxole (2) and aromatic carbonyl or pyruvate derivatives react in the presence of TDAE to afford diaryl alcohols, α -hydroxy esters and α -hydroxy lactam derivatives in moderate to good yields. This method, using TDAE, is an easy, original and mild method to prepare functionalized o-nitrobenzyl anions in situ. This approach was found to be milder compared with the classical Reformatsky reaction, where activated zinc with added catalyst is often needed. The preparation of a new class of arylethanolamine analogs (after deprotection of dioxole ring and reduction of nitro group) and the pharmacological evaluation of all intermediates are under active investigation.

Experimental

General

Melting points were determined on a Büchi B-540 apparatus and are uncorrected. Elemental analyses were performed by the Centre de Microanalyses of the University of Aix-Marseille 3. Both 1 H- and 13 C-NMR spectra were determined on a Bruker ARX 200 spectrometer. The 1 H- chemical shifts were reported as parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane (Me₄Si), and the 13 C-chemical shifts were referenced to the solvent peak of CDCl₃ (76.9 ppm). Silica gel 60 (Merck, 230-400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Thin-layer chromatography was performed with Merck 60F-254 (0.25 mm layer thickness) silica gel plates.

General procedure for the reaction of chloride **2** and aromatic carbonyl derivatives **3a-h**, α -carbonyl esters **3i-j**, ketomalonate **3k** and keto-lactam **3l** using TDAE

A solution of **2** (0.30 g, 1.36 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (7 mL) and the corresponding carbonyl derivative **3a-l** (9 mmol, 3 equiv.) were placed under nitrogen at -20°C in a two-necked flask equipped with a silica-gel drying tube and a nitrogen inlet. The solution was stirred and kept at this temperature

^a All the reactions are performed using 3 equivalents of carbonyl compounds **3a-l**, 1 equivalent of chloride **2** and 1 equivalent of TDAE in anhydrous DMF stirred at −20°C for 1 h and then warmed up to room temperature. ^b % Yield relative to chloride **2**.

for 30 min and then the TDAE (0.27 g, 1.36 mmol) was added dropwise via a syringe. A red color immediately developed with the formation of a white fine precipitate. The solution was vigorously stirred at -20° C for 1 h and then warmed up to room temperature for 2 h (24 h for reaction with p-nitroacetophenone **3h**). After this time TLC analysis (CH₂Cl₂ as eluent) clearly showed that **2** was totally consumed. The orange-red turbid solution was filtered (to remove the octamethyloxamidinium dichloride) and hydrolysed with H₂O (80 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with toluene (3 x 40 mL), the combined organic layers washed with H₂O (3 x 40 mL) and dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation of the solvent left an orange viscous liquid as crude product. Purification by silica gel chromatography (CH₂Cl₂) gave the corresponding arylethanol, α -hydroxy ester or α -hydroxy lactam derivatives.

2-(6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-(4-nitrophenyl)ethanol (**4a**): Orange solid; mp 162 °C (ethyl alcohol); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 2.36 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.01 (dd, $J_{AB} = 13.6$ Hz and J = 8.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.43 (dd, $J_{AB} = 13.6$ Hz and J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 5.18 (dd, J = 8.9 Hz and J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.12 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.73 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.56 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.63 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 8.23 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 43.8 (CH₂), 73.4 (CH), 103.0 (CH₂), 105.9 (CH), 112.1 (CH), 123.8 (2xCH), 126.5 (2xCH), 129.9 (C), 147.2 (C), 147.5 (C), 151.0 (C), 151.7 (C), 158.3 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₂O₇: C, 54.22; H, 3.64; N, 8.43. Found: C, 54.17; H, 3.50; N, 8.40.

1-(*4-Chlorophenyl*)-2-(*6-nitrobenzo*[*1,3*]*dioxol-5-yl*)*ethanol* (**4b**): Orange solid; mp 109 °C (ethyl alcohol); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.67 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.05 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.6 Hz and J = 8.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.35 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.6 Hz and J = 3.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 5.13 (dd, J = 8.9 Hz and J = 3.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.10 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.72 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.35 (m, 4H, 4xH_{Ar}), 7.53 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 43.7 (CH₂), 73.6 (CH), 102.9 (CH₂), 105.8 (CH), 112.1 (CH), 127.0 (2xCH), 128.7 (2xCH), 130.4 (C), 133.5 (C), 142.4 (C), 143.3 (C), 147.0 (C), 151.5 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ClNO₅: C, 56.00; H, 3.76; N, 4.35. Found: C, 56.29; H, 3.77; N, 4.43.

4-[1-Hydroxy-2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-ethyl]benzonitrile (**4c**): Yellow solid; mp 166 °C (dichloromethane); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 2.32 (bs, 1H, OH), 2.99 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.5 Hz and J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.40 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.5 Hz and J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 5.12 (dd, J = 9.0 Hz and J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.12 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.72 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.55 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.57 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 43.7 (CH₂), 73.5 (CH), 103.0 (CH₂), 105.9 (CH), 111.5 (C), 112.1 (CH), 118.7 (C), 126.3 (2xCH), 130.0 (C), 132.4 (2xCH), 143.3 (C), 147.2 (C), 149.1 (C), 151.7 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₂O₅: C, 61.54; H, 3.87; N, 8.97. Found: C, 61.63; H, 3.83; N, 8.67.

2-(6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-p-tolylethanol (**4d**): Brown solid; mp 126 °C (diethyl ether); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.89 (bs, 1H, OH), 2.36 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.10 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.5 Hz and J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.35 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.5 Hz and J = 3.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 4.98 (dd, J = 9.0 Hz and J = 3.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.09 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.75 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 7.51 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 21.1 (CH₃), 43.5 (CH₂), 74.2 (CH), 102.8 (CH₂), 105.7 (CH), 112.1 (CH), 125.5 (2xCH), 129.3 (2xCH), 130.9 (C), 137.5 (C), 140.9 (C), 143.4 (C), 146.8 (C), 151.4 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅NO₅: C, 63.78; H, 5.02; N, 4.65. Found: C, 63.77; H, 5.05; N, 4.58.

2-(6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-(2-nitrophenyl)ethanol (**4e**): Orange solid; mp 135 °C (ethyl alcohol); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 3.22 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.30 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz and J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.48 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz and J = 9.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 5.51 (dd, J = 9.1 Hz and J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.11 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.95 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.43 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.48 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.69 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.92 (m, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 40.7 (CH₂), 70.9 (CH), 102.9 (CH₂), 105.5 (CH), 111.1 (CH), 124.6 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 129.7 (C), 133.8 (CH), 139.4 (C), 147.0 (C), 147.6 (C), 151.8 (C), 158.6 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₂O₇: C, 54.22; H, 3.64; N, 8.43. Found: C, 54.35; H, 3.69; N, 8.15.

2-(6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethanol (**4f**): Brown solid; mp 102 °C (ethyl alcohol); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 2.62 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.09 (dd, J_{AB} = 14.0 Hz and J = 3.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.48 (dd, J_{AB} = 14.0 Hz and J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 5.34 (dd, J = 9.3 Hz and J = 3.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.08 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.73 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.40 (m, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 7.60 (m, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 7.80 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 41.6 (CH₂), 70.1 (CH), 102.8 (CH₂), 105.5 (CH), 111.0 (CH), 125.4 (CH), 126.6 (C), 127.0 (C), 127.8 (2xCH), 129.5 (C), 132.4 (CH), 142.7 (C), 144.3 (C), 146.8 (C), 151.5 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃NO₅: C, 54.09; H, 3.40; N, 3.94. Found: C, 53.82; H, 3.21; N, 3.92.

1,2-Bis-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)ethanol (**4g**): Yellow solid; mp 230 °C (chloroform); ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 3.07 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.6 Hz and J = 4.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.35 (dd, J_{AB} = 13.6 Hz and J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 5.27 (m, 1H, CH), 5.72 (bs, 1H, OH), 6.19 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.22 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.90 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.15 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.51 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.52 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ: 40.9 (CH₂), 68.3 (CH₁), 103.6 (CH₂), 103.8 (CH₂), 104.9 (CH), 105.5 (CH), 107.2 (CH), 111.6 (CH), 129.6 (C), 138.0 (C), 141.6 (C), 144.4 (C), 146.8 (C), 147.3 (C), 151.3 (C), 152.3 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₂O₉: C, 51.07; H, 3.21; N, 7.44. Found: C, 50.86; H, 3.13; N, 7.20.

1-(6-Nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)propan-2-ol (4h): Orange solid; mp 99 °C (chloroform); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.65 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.74 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.24 (d, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.61 (d, J_{AB} = 13.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 6.06 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.38 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.39 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.59 (d, J_{AB} = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 8.18 (d, J_{AB} = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 30.0 (CH₃), 45.6 (CH₂), 75.1 (C), 102.9 (CH₂), 105.8 (CH), 111.7 (CH), 123.5 (2xCH), 126.1 (2xCH), 127.8 (C), 144.7 (C), 147.0 (C), 151.0 (C), 154.4 (C). The second C-nitro was not observed in this experiment; Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₄N₂O₇: C, 55.49; H, 4.07; N, 8.09. Found: C, 55.51; H, 4.07; N, 7.89.

2-Hydroxy-2-methyl-3-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)propionic acid ethyl ester (**4i**): Yellow solid; mp 79 °C (chloroform); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.28 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.35 (d, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.43 (d, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 4.12 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 6.04 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.81 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.31 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 13.9 (CH₃), 26.0 (CH₃), 40.8 (CH₂), 62.3 (CH₂), 74.8 (C), 102.7 (CH₂), 105.6 (CH), 111.6 (CH), 126.9 (C), 144.7 (C), 146.7 (C), 150.6 (C), 175.9 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₅NO₇: C, 52.53; H, 5.09; N, 4.71. Found: C, 52.51; H, 5.08; N, 4.81.

2-Hydroxy-3-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester (**4j**): Yellow solid; mp 90 °C (chloroform); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 2.94 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.08 (dd, J_{AB} =

13.8 Hz and J = 8.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.45 (dd, $J_{AB} = 13.8$ Hz and J = 4.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 4.24 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 4.47 (m, 1H, CH), 6.09 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.83 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.48 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 14.1 (CH₃), 37.9 (CH₂), 62.2 (CH₂), 70.4 (CH), 102.9 (CH₂), 105.7 (CH), 111.9 (CH), 128.9 (C), 143.6 (C), 147.0 (C), 151.4 (C), 174.1 (C); Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₃NO₇: C, 50.89; H, 4.63; N, 4.95. Found: C, 50.90; H, 4.62; N, 4.89.

2-Hydroxy-2-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-methyl) malonic acid diethyl ester (**4k**): Orange solid; mp 92 °C (chloroform); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H, 2xCH₃), 3.76 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.80 (bs, 1H, OH), 4.22 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H, 2xCH₂), 6.06 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.90 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.32 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 13.9 (2xCH₃), 35.6 (CH₂), 62.9 (2xCH₂), 78.7 (C), 102.7 (CH₂), 105.7 (CH), 111.8 (CH), 125.4 (C), 147.0 (C), 150.7 (C), 169.5 (2xC). The C-nitro was not observed in this experiment; Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₇NO₉: C, 50.71; H, 4.82; N, 3.94. Found: C, 51.07; H, 4.88; N, 3.99.

3-Hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(6-nitrobenzo[1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-1,3-dihydroindol-2-one (**4l**): Yellow solid; mp 161 °C (chloroform); 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 2.79 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.16 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.35 (d, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.74 (d, J_{AB} = 13.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 6.10 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.82 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}), 6.91 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.03 (m, 2H, 2xH_{Ar}), 7.31 (m, 1H, H_{Ar}), 7.45 (s, 1H, H_{Ar}); 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 26.3 (CH₃), 40.7 (CH₂), 76.1 (C), 102.9 (CH₂), 105.9 (CH), 108.5 (CH), 112.5 (CH), 123.1 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 126.5 (C), 129.4 (C), 129.9 (C), 142.9 (C), 144.1 (C), 147.2 (C), 151.1 (C), 177.2 (C); Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{14}N_{2}O_{6}$: C, 59.65; H, 4.12; N, 8.18. Found: C, 59.57; H, 4.19; N, 8.03.

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Sample Availability: Available from the authors.

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