

Chemistry 2600

Chapter 15

Bond Electrophiles Connected to Leaving Groups

(sections 15.1-15.8 excluding 15.3.4 & 15.5.1)

Substitution Reactions of Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

- In Chapter 7 you saw how carbonyl groups (aldehydes and ketones) are good electrophiles and undergo *addition* reactions.
- In this chapter we will explore the chemistry of the carboxylic acid derivatives (CADs), molecules containing a carbonyl group attached to a heteroatom.
- Carboxylic acid derivatives follow a pattern of reactivity called *addition-elimination*.
- Addition-elimination is a 2 step reaction that adds a Nu to a π bond, and then eliminates a LG to re-form the π bond.

Substitution Reactions of Carboxylic Acid

• Carboxylic acid derivatives:



Substitution Reactions of Carboxylic Acid Derivatives

- Because aldehydes and ketones do not have a good LG, they only undergo addition reactions.
- Aldehyde/Ketones:



Nucleophile donates electrons to the carbonyl carbon forming a new bond. Bond formation and breaking occur at the same time and are shown on the same structure.



• Where do aldehydes and ketones fit on this list?

• The formation of the tetrahedral intermediate is the RDS:



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- The relative reactivity of the CADs can be understood by looking at 2 factors:
 - The electrophilicity of the carbonyl carbon
 - The stability of the leaving group
- The electrophilicity of the carbonyl carbon is dependent on the ability of the heteroatom to donate an electron pair.





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- If the X group in the CADs is a better LG than the incoming nucleophile, a reaction is possible.
- If not, then the tetrahedral intermediate will transform back to the starting material.





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- If not, then the tetrahedral intermediate will transform back to the starting material.
- •e.g.



Relative Reactivity of the CADs • Recall, the weaker the base, the better the LG.

Best leaving group H_2O (weakest base) ROH RCO NH₃ HO RÒ Worst leaving group (strongest base) NH_2



• The more electrophilic CADs (on the left) can be converted to any of the less reactive forms (on the right) by the addition of the appropriate nucleophile.

Retrosynthetic Analysis

 Acyl substitution reactions produce one acyl compound from another by substituting a Nu for a LG on a carbonyl compound.



- While the addition-elimination steps of the CADs are mechanistically identical, the reaction conditions can vary from reaction to reaction.
- Factors to consider:
 - 1. Strength of the electrophile
 - 2. Strength of the nucleophile
 - 3. Reaction conditions (acidic or basic)



- 1. <u>Strength of the Electrophile</u>.
- The most reactive of the CADs are acid chlorides and anhydrides. These can usually react with neutral nucleophiles without the aid of a catalyst.
- Ester from acid chloride:



• Amide from acid chloride:



• Neutral nucleophile with external base:





- 2. <u>Strength of the Nucleophile</u>.
- Nucleophiles in their conjugate base form are usually used with acid chlorides, anhydrides, or esters, and are only practical with oxygen based nucleophiles (negatively charged nitrogen nucleophiles are too basic).
- Ester from an acid chloride:



- 2. <u>Strength of the Nucleophile</u>.
- Ester from an anhydride:

symmetrical anhydride



either carbonyl electrophile will give the same product

• Ester hydrolysis (saponification):





- 3. <u>Reaction Conditions (Acid catalysis)</u>.
- The less reactive electrophiles can be made to react faster under acidic conditions (acids generally activate electrophiles, while bases activate nucleophiles)







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• Acid from ester – ester hydrolysis (acid catalyzed).



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- Amides are among the least reactive CADs but can be made to react.
- The most useful transformation of amides is into carboxylic acids.
- This requires high temperatures and an acid or base catalyst (easier under acidic conditions).

• Acid from amide - amide hydrolysis (acid catalysis).



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- Amides from esters:
 - This reaction is slow and requires heat:



- Amides from acids:
 - This reaction requires extreme heat to complete because of both the electrophile and nucleophile are deactivated (why?).





Nitriles behave similarly to amides:



• Draw the mechanism for the first step of this reaction:

 Carboxylic acids are special because under the right conditions, they can be used to make all other derivatives.



 Acid chlorides are made by reacting carboxylic acids with thionyl chloride (SOCl₂).



 Carbon nucleophiles undergo 2 addition-elimination reactions with CADs to give 3° alcohols.





- In Chem 2500, you learned that aldehydes and ketones are reduced by nucleophilic hydride reagents such as LiAlH₄ and NaBH₄.
- This reaction is simply the addition of a nucleophile to a polar π bond.
- If the carbonyl has a leaving group (the CADs), the addition-elimination mechanism then forms an aldehyde, which in turn is reduced to the alcohol.
- LiAlH₄ is a powerful reducing agent and will reduce esters, carboxylic acids, and amides. NaBH₄, is not strong enough to reduce these derivatives.

• Thus, we can use NaBH₄ to selectively reduce one type of carbonyl group in the presence of another.



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- By using an electrophilic reducing agent, we can selectively reduce the less electrophilic carbonyl groups.
- Typical electrophilic reducing reagents are borane (BH₃) and DIBAL (diisobutylaluminum hydride).



- Carbonyls that are less reactive toward LiAlH₄ and NaBH₄ are more reactive towards BH₃ or DIBAL.
- Similarly, carbonyls that are more reactive toward LiAlH₄ and NaBH₄ are less reactive towards BH_3 or DIBAL.



- Both BH₃ and DIBAL are Lewis acids and will immediately form an adduct with the Lewis basic carbonyl group.
- Once the Lewis acid-base adduct if formed, a hydride is transferred over to the carbonyl group.



 In the case of the CADs, the 'x' group has a lone pair which can complex again to the electron deficient boron atom giving an intermediate which is stable at low temperatures.



 If the intermediate is treated with water, excess reducing agent is destroyed and the reduction product is release. If the intermediate is warmed up first, the intermediate will collapse on its own and the product will be further reduced.

• If the intermediate is treated with water, excess reducing agent is destroyed and the reduction product is release. If the intermediate is warmed up first, the intermediate will collapse and the product is further

reduced.



Reduction of an ester with DIBAL:





DIBAL reduction summary:

- To reduce an ester or amide to an aldehyde, use low temperatures (-78°C) followed by an aqueous acidic workup.
- To reduce an ester to a primary alcohol or an amide to a primary amine, use higher temperatures followed by an aqueous acidic workup.



Patterns in Addition-Elimination Reactions

