

Chemistry 2600

Chapter 16

π Bonds With Hidden Leaving Groups

(sections 16.1-16.6 excluding 16.3.1 and 16.5.3)

- In Chapters 7 and 15 we saw how carbonyl compounds undergo addition reactions with nucleophiles.
- We also saw how some of these reactions are reversible.
- For example, recall the formation of a hydrate when an aldehyde or ketone reacts with water under acidic condition:



• This reaction is reversible and after the loss of a leaving group, the carbonyl group is reformed:



- Note that the oxygen that is lost could come from the initial carbonyl oxygen atom.
- We say these molecules have a 'hidden leaving group'.
- This chapter explores the chemistry of the removal or replacement of these hidden leaving groups.

- When an aldehyde/ketone reacts with an alcohol in the presence of acid, a *hemiacetal* is formed.
- The only difference between hemiacetal formation and hydrate formation is the nucleophile (water vs alcohol).
- Hemiacetals have a hidden leaving group and in the presence of alcohol and acid, react quickly to form an *acetal*.
 - Hemiacetal (tetrahedral carbon attached to –OH and –OR)
 - Acetal (tetrahedral carbon attached to two –OR groups)



Acetal formation:



0

- Acetal formation is an equilibrium process, all the steps in the sequence can run in both directions.
- When an acetal is converted to a carbonyl compound, the reaction is called *hydrolysis* because water is being used to break (lyse) the acetal.
- Acetals are only be formed under acidic conditions. Acid is required to convert the –OH group of the hemiacetal into a good leaving group.
- Reversible reactions typically give poor yields and form a mixture of products.

• We can use Le Chatelier's principle to control the equilibrium: using an excess of either reagent can shift the equilibrium toward the products



• Draw the product of the following reaction and the mechanism of formation:



Hemiacetals in Sugars

- Acyclic hemiacetals are generally not very stable and the equilibrium favours the carbonyl group and the alcohol.
- Cyclic hemiacetals are more stable and the equilibrium favours their formation. This is especially true when 5or 6-membered rings are formed.



Hemiacetals in Sugars

- Most sugars can exist in an open-chain form and several different cyclic hemiacetal forms.
- The hemiacetals of sugars are known as *anomers*.
- Anomers are the different stereoisomers formed when the carbonyl carbon (the *anomeric carbon*) of a sugar is converted to a cyclic hemiacetal.

Hemiacetals in Sugars

 Most sugars exists in an open-chain form and several different cyclic hemiacetal forms.



- Most organic molecules contain multiple functional groups. While functional groups give chemists 'handles' of reactivity, they can also interfere during other reactions.
- To ensure a reaction occurs at one particular functional group, the other functional groups may need to be temporarily inactivated.
- We can do this by using *protecting groups*.
- Protecting groups change functional groups into a related functional group that will not react.
- Once the desired reaction has been completed, the protected functional group is then 'deprotected'.

- The reactivity pattern of acetals make them useful as protecting groups.
 - They do not react easily with bases (no acidic protons)
 - They do not react with nucleophiles (no π bonds or good LGs)
 - They are easily installed to and removed from carbonyl groups.
- Consider the following reaction:





Ω

• Cyclic acetals are often used as they are more difficult to hydrolyze than acyclic ones.



 Acetals can also be used to protect alcohols. In this case, the alcohol is reacted with dihydropyran (DHP) to give the tetrahydropyranyl (THP) acetal:



Retrosynthetic Analysis

 Acetals, hemiacetals, and hydrates all disconnect to the corresponding carbonyl form. Similarly, carbonyls can be produced from the corresponding acetals.



Retrosynthetic Analysis

• Suggest a series of reagents that could be used to carry out the following transformation:



- Nitrogen can also form multiple bonds to carbon.
- Under the right conditions, nitrogen nucleophiles react with carbonyl groups to form an *imine* (C=N).
- Imines are formed in the same 2 step additionelimination reaction as the CADs:
 - Nucleophilic attack of an amine onto a carbonyl carbon to form a *hemiaminal*.
 - Elimination of water from the hemiaminal to form an iminium ion which give the imine.

• *These two steps have different pH requirements.*



Proton transfers in such reactions involve surrounding molecules and often occur simultaneously with the addition. Because many molecules may be involved in these steps, they are sometimes abbreviated as a "proton transfer."

OH

R^{ŃH}

hemiaminal



 $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{NH}_2}$

R ⊕ NH2





- Mechanistically, the steps of imine formation are the same as those of acetal formation.
- The proton transfer reactions occur between different protons. These steps occur rapidly and simultaneously in order to keep the charges balanced:



 Because of the different pH requirements of each step in imine formation, the pH of the reaction must be carefully controlled and kept between 4-6.



- Acylic imines typically unstable and rapidly hydrolyze.
- Cyclic imines are generally more stable.



Enamines

Iminium ions form when 2° amines react with carbonyl compounds. These ions cannot convert to the imine because there is no proton on the nitrogen atom to remove.



 Typically a proton is removed from an adjacent carbon atom to form an *enamine*. Enamines are analogous to enols.



Stable Imines

 Nitrogen nucleophiles attached to heteroatoms (N and O) can form especially stable imines.



Reductive Amination

 Using amines in substitution reactions generally leads to complications because amines tend to over alkylate.



 One way to overcome this problem is a strategy called reductive amination: a reaction sequence that involves imine formation followed be immediate reduction.

Wolff-Kishner Reduction

• The Wolff-Kishner reduction provides a method to reduce a hydrazone by eliminating nitrogen gas:



 Write a mechanism for the reduction of the hydrazone with base.

Heterocycle Formation

- Heterocycles are rings that contain one or more heteroatoms (atoms other than carbon).
 - e.g.







pyrrole

thiophene

 Many aromatic heterocycles are prepared using 1,3and 1,4-dicarbonyl reagents in reactions involving hidden leaving groups.

furan

Heterocycle Formation

• Propose a mechanism for the following reaction:









furan

C

Heterocycle Formation

• Propose a mechanism for the following reaction:



Patterns in Hidden Leaving Groups

Acetal formation:



O

Patterns in Hidden Leaving Groups

Imine formation:



O