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Highly Efficient Chemoselective Synthesis of 2-Aryl-1-arylmethyl-1*H*-Benzimidazoles by Using TiCp₂Cl₂ Catalyst

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ABSTRACT

One pot highly efficient chemoselective N-arylmethyl benzimidazole has been prepared by using catalyst TiCp₂Cl₂ in tetrahydrofuran solvent smoothly. This method is very much effective for the condensation between different aldehydes and various *ortho*-phenylenediamine to synthesize N-substituted benzimidazole. Clean reaction procedure, quick reaction, easy purification and high yield of the product are some advantages of this protocol. All the target molecules were identified by spectroscopic analysis and also verified melting points from literature value.



Keywords: Bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium(IV) dichloride, N-arylmethyl benzimidazole, Chemoselective synthesis, *ortho*-phenylenediamines.

INTRODUCTION

N-aryImethyl benzimidazoles have tremendous application in the biochemical and medicinal field.¹ 1,2-Disubstituted Substituted benzimidazole derivatives are used as anthelmintic agents in veterinarian medicine and treatment of antihistamineics.² They have remarkable applications in several diseases such as antiviral agent against several viruses such as HIV,³ antimicrobial agents,⁴ antititimor,⁵ influenza,⁶ antiprotozoal⁷ and antiinflammatory agents.⁸⁻¹⁰ The traditional procedure of 1,2-disubstitued benzimidazoles have been prepared by using an *ortho*-diamines and derivatives of carboxyl acids such as amidates, orthoesters and nitriles under hot reaction method.^{11,12} The second route

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is the condensation between aldehyde and *ortho*phenylenediamines in presence of various Lewis acid catalysts.^{13,14} There are some different methods for preparation of disubstituted benzimidazoles by applying resin supported solid-phase,¹⁵ microwave assisted reaction¹⁶ and green solvent mediated synthesis such as water or ionic liquids.¹⁷

However many of these methodologies suffer disadvantages like low yields, no easy accessibility of the materials, harsh and lengthy time, extremely elevated temperature, additive oxidising catalyst, column chromatography for purification of products and formation of considerable amount of byproduct.¹⁸⁻²⁰ Still now it is very much crucial to generate a simple and efficient pathway for the production of 1,2-disubstitued benzimidazoles. An efficient method was published to synthesis related heterocyclic compound with excellent yield by using poisonous Ti(OBu)₄ catalyst under mild conditions.^{21,22} Another methodology was reported to synthesize alkynes by using TiCp, Me,.23 So Ti metal complex provides enormous interest to the researcher to develop new synthesis through the improvement of new methodology for the preparation of heterocyclic compounds.

An effective and generalised easy method has been reported for the generation of N-Arylmethyl benzimidazoles 3 by condensation between aromatic aldehydes and *ortho*-phenylenediamines using TiCp₂Cl₂ [Bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium(IV) dichloride] as a catalyst (Scheme 1) in THF solvent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Methodological organic synthesis always gets attractive interest to the chemist. A new methodology has been developed for the formation of N-substituted benzimidazole in organic solvent. Initially optimization of the reaction conditions have been set up by using p-chlorobenzaldehyde (2a, 2 mmol) and ortho-phenylenediamine (1a, 1.2 mmol) in presence of catalyst under different conditions to examine the influence of catalytic activity TiCp₂Cl₂ (Scheme 1) in this work. In THF solvent at 90 °C the reaction was stirred with different amount of catalyst reported in Table 1. It was found that without any catalyst very low yield (20%) of the desired compound 3a was isolated and it was confirmed by TLC experiment. Then 5 mol% of catalyst was loaded but improved yield of the product 3a was only 40%. It was noticed that the amount of product was increasing as the amount of catalyst increased. In presence 20 mol% of catalyst 90% product was found and the quantity of the product did not change with increasing the time and increasing the amount of catalyst (Entry 7, Table 1). At 60 °C only 60% yield was observed (Entry 6, Table 1) even the reaction was continued for 10 hours. No improved yield was isolated even the reaction was carried out at 110 °C in THF solvent (Entry 10, Table 1). So finally conclusion has been made that 20 mol% of the TiCp₂Cl₂ was appropriate to develop the large yield of the desired product 3a. From the graphical representation (Fig. 1) it is clear that there is no increasing of the yield of the product is observed in presence of more than 20 mol% of the catalyst at 90 °C (Entries 7 and 9, Table 1).



Scheme 1. Synthesis of N-arylmethylbenzimidazoles in presence of $\mathrm{TiCp}_{2}\mathrm{Cl}_{2}$

Table 1: Examination of the amount of catalyst required in the reaction

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TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (mol%)	^a Conditions	Time (h)	[⊳] Yield(%)
0	90°C, THF	10	20
05	90°C, THF	10	40
10	90°C, THF	10	50
15	90°C, THF	10	70
20	90°C, THF	6	90
20	60°C, THF	10	60
25	90°C, THF	6	90
25	60°C, THF	10	60
30	90°C, THF	6	92
20	110°C,THF	6	88
	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (mol%) 0 5 10 15 20 20 25 25 30 20	TiCp2Cl2(mol%) *Conditions 0 90°C, THF 05 90°C, THF 10 90°C, THF 15 90°C, THF 20 90°C, THF 20 90°C, THF 20 90°C, THF 20 60°C, THF 25 60°C, THF 30 90°C, THF 20 110°C, THF 20 110°C, THF	TiCp2Cl2(mol%) *Conditions Time (h) 0 90°C, THF 10 05 90°C, THF 10 10 90°C, THF 10 15 90°C, THF 10 20 90°C, THF 6 20 60°C, THF 10 25 90°C, THF 6 25 60°C, THF 10 30 90°C, THF 6 20 110°C, THF 6

^aConditions: *p*-chlorobenzaldehyde (2 mmol) and *ortho*phenylenediamine (1.2 mmol),THF (5mL) ^bIsolated Yield



Fig. 1. Graphical representation of the different mol% of catalyst and %yield of the product at 90 °C (3a)

Entry	Solvent (5 mL)	^a Conditions	Time (h)	^b Yield (%)
1.	Toluene	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (90°C)	6	65
2.	THF	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (90°C)	6	90
З.	MeCN	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (reflux)	6	70
4.	EtOH	TiCp,Cl, (20 mol%), (90°C)	6	65
5.	EtOH+H ₂ O (1:1)	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (90°C)	6	60
6.	H,O	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (90°C)	6	45
7.	CH,CI,	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (reflux)	6	60
8.	Neat	TiCp ₂ Cl ₂ (20 mol%), (90°C)	6	40

Table 2: Choice of the solvent for the formation of compound 3a

^aConditions: *p*-chlorobenzaldehyde (2 mmol) and *o*-diamine (1.2 mmol), ^bIsolated Yield.

After the initialization of the mol% of the catalyst then next experiment was designed to determine the appropriate solvent in which the reaction occurs smoothly shown in Table 2. For this purpose 20 mol% of TiCp₂Cl₂ were used in different solvents at 90 °C for 6 horus. It was found that in aqueous alcoholic medium and aqueous medium the yield was 60% and 45% respectively (Entries 5 and 6, Table 2) and low yield can be attributed because of the loss of homogeneity in the reaction medium. In neat condition the yield was only 40% because the reaction medium was heterogeneous (Entry 8, Table 2). In other solvents like acetonitrile the yield was 70% (Entry 3, Table 2) and 65% yield (Entry 4, Table 2) was observed in presence of ethanol solvent. In presence of THF solvent chemo selectivity of the product raised and desired product 3a was obtained selectively as a large amount 90% (Entry 2, Table 2). So by combining the above two experiments we can say that our dream came true to develop the methodology at 90 °C in presence of 20 mol% of TiCp₂Cl₂ catalyst in THF solvent with better yield of the desired product 3a. Then we had applied this successful methodology to generate different N-arylmethylbenzimidazoles to generalise the scheme reported in Table 3.

This condensation reaction became successful to generate the desired product **3a** in good yield under this reaction condition with different aromatic aldehydes and various *ortho*phenylenediamine. Although the reaction was catalyzed by TiCp_2Cl_2 but %yield and time of the completion of the reaction of the products depend on the reactivity of the aldehyde group in aromatic aldehyde moiety depicted in Table 3. Usually electron withdrawing group at the meta and Para position provided excellent yield of the products rather than the electron pushing group at the same position present in aromatic aldehydes and that's why excellent yields were observed in presence of functional group CI, Br, CN and F (Entries 1, 2, 3 and 19, Table 3) with respect to electron donating methoxy and methyl group (Entries 4 and 9, Table 3). In case of para-nitrobenzaldehyde comparatively higher yield was found and less time was required to end the reaction. Benzaldehyde gave low yield of the product may be because of aerial oxidation of the substrate during the reaction. Parahydroxybenzaldehyde also gave good yield of the product and as well as 3,4-dimethoxybenzaldehyde gave the same result (Entry 7, Table 3) but in both cases requisite larger time to finish the reaction (Entry 10, Table 3). Even using dimethyl and dichloro ortho-phenylenediamine better yield of the product was achieved with different aldehydes. Not only aromatic aldehyde but this methodology was equally effective in the case of hetero aromatic aldehyde also (Entry 20, Table 3). So this methodology was very much regular in each reaction and more effective than other published paper²⁶.

Plausible reaction mechanism for the generation of N-arylmethylbenzimidazole

Here Ti metal complex act as a strong Lewis acid and it increases the electrophilicity of the aldehyde carbonyl carbon by coordination²¹ with oxygen atom and diimine formation took place immediately reported in previous published paper²⁹ and then cyclisation followed by H⁺ ion transfer generates the desired products with good yield shown in mechanism (Scheme 2). It has been proved from the above analysis that our methodology is very general for the synthesis of N-disubstituted benzimidazoles with wide variations in both the *ortho*-phenylenediamine and the aromatic aldehyde in THF solvent at 90 °C without any formation of the side product 4 (Scheme 1).

Entry	<i>o</i> -Aromaticdiamine (1)	R-CHO (2)	N-substitute Benzimidazole (3)	Time (h)	yield (%)	Ref
1.	NH₂ NH₂ 1a	4-CIC ₆ H₄CHO		06	90	24
2.	NH₂ NH₂ 1a	4-BrC ₆ H₄CHO		06	88	25
з.	NH ₂ NH ₂	4-CNC ₆ H ₄ CHO		5.5	92	26
4.	NH ₂ NH ₂	4-OMeC ₆ H₄CHO		6.5	87	27
5.		4-NO₂C ₆ H₄CHO		5.0	82	24
6.		C ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	80	27
7.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1a	4-OHC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	85	28
8.	NH ₂ NH ₂	3-BrC ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	82	24
9.	NH ₂ NH ₂	4-CH₃C ₆ H₄CHO		6.5	86	29
10.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1a	3,4-(OMe)₂C ₆ H₃CHO		6.0	84	27
Entry	o-Aromaticdiamine (1)	R-CHO (2)	N-Substituted Benzimidazole (3)	Time (h)	yield (%)	Ref
11.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1b	4-BrC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	92	26
12.		4-CIC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	88	26
13.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1b	4-OMeC ₆ H₄CHO		6.5	87	26
14.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1b	3-NO₂C ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	84	26
15.	CI NH ₂ CI NH ₂ 1c	C ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	82	30
16.	CI NH ₂ CI NH ₂ 1c	4-CIC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	84	26
17.		4-OMeC ₆ H₄CHO		6.5	85	26

Table 3: Synthesis of 2-Aryl-1-arylmethyl-1H-benzimidazoles

12. $ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	11.	NH₂ 1b	4-BrC ₆ H ₄ CHO		6.0	92	26
13. $ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ 1b \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ 1c \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$	12.		4-CIC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	88	26
14. $ \prod_{h=1}^{NH_2} 3 \cdot NO_2C_6H_4CHO $ $ \prod_{h=1}^{NH_2} C_6H_4CHO $ $ \prod_{h=1}^{NH_2} C_6H_4CHO $ $ \prod_{h=1}^{(I)} C_{I} + MH_2 + CIC_6H_4CHO $ $ \prod_{h=1}^{(I)} C_{I} + CIC_6H_4CHO + CIC_6$	13.	1b	4-OMeC ₆ H₄CHO		6.5	87	26
15. $\begin{array}{c} Cl \\ rightarrow NH_{2} \\ 1c \\ 1$	14.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1b	3-NO₂C ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	84	26
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	15.		C ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	82	30
17. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ C_{1} \\ C_{1} \\ 1c \end{array}$ 16. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ 1c \end{array}$ 17. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ R \\ 1c \end{array}$ 18. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ C_{1} \\ C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 18. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ R \\ C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 18. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ R \\ C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 19. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ 1c \end{array}$ 19. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ 1a \end{array}$ 19. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ 1a \end{array}$ 10. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ 1a \end{array}$ 10. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 11. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 12. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 13. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 14. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 15. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 16. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 17. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 17. \\ C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array} 17. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 17. $\begin{array}{c} C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array}$ 17. \\ C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \end{array} 17. \\ C_{1} \\ NH_{2} \\ NH_{2} \end{array} 17. \\ C_{1} \\	16.	CI NH₂ CI NH₂ 1c	4-CIC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	84	26
18. $\begin{array}{c c c c c c c } & & & & & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & & \\ \hline & & & &$	17.	CI NH ₂ CI NH ₂ 1c	4-OMeC ₆ H₄CHO	CI SI SI SI R	6.5	85	26
19. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ NH_2 \\ 1a \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ 1a \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ NH_2 \\ NH_2 \\ 1a \end{array}$ 21. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ O \\ NH_2 \\ 1a \end{array}$ 22. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ O \\ NH_2 \\ 1a \end{array}$ 23. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ O \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 24. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 25. $\begin{array}{c} St \\ R \end{array}$ 26. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 27. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 28. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 29. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ St \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ St \\ St \\ R \end{array}$ 20. $\begin{array}{c} NH_2 \\ St \\ S$	18.	CI NH ₂ CI NH ₂	4-BrC ₆ H₄CHO		6.0	82	26
20. NH_2 NH ₂ OCHO NH_R 5.5 82 3 1a R	19.	NH ₂ NH ₂ 1a	4-FC ₆ H₄CHO		5.5	81	29
1a R	20.		Сно		5.5	8 2	30
		1a		R			



N-arylmethylbenzimidazole synthesis EXPERIMENTAL

All chemicals and solvents are used AR grade. All aromatic aldehydes and *o*-phenylenediamine were purchased from Spectrochem, Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, India. TiCp₂Cl₂ was purched from Sigma Aldrich. FT-IR spectra and NMR spectra were recorded on Perkin-Elmer spectrometer and Bruker 300 MHz spectrometer respectively. For melting points measurement a Gallenkamp electrothermal apparatus was used.

General methodology for the synthesis of N-arylmethylbenzimidazole

In a round-bottomed flask substituted benzaldehyde (2, 2 mmol) and *ortho*-phenylenediamine (1, 1.2 mmol) (Scheme 1) were thoroughly mixed and dissolved in 5 mL tetrahydrofuran solvent. Then 20 mol% TiCp₂Cl₂ catalyst was added and stirred the mixture vigorously with heating. After a while the reaction was checked by silica coated TLC plate in presence of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as solvent. The reaction completed within 5.0-6.5 hours. Then the mixture was poured in 5 mL water and kept the reaction mixture in a refrigerator for overnight. Separated crude product was crystallized directly by aqueous EtOH. Character analysis of product (**3a-t**) was compared by FT-IR, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data with known compounds.

Selected characterization data for synthesized compounds

2-(3, 4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(3', 4'-dimethoxyphenylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole (3j)

White m.p. 170-172°C (Aqueous EtOH), FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2918, 2376, 1507, 1451, 1248, 1135 and 1021, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.86 (d, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 3H), 6.91 (d, 1H), 6.79 (d, 1H), 6.65-6.61 (m, 2H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), ¹³C NMR (75MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 153.9, 150.3, 149.3, 148.9, 148.4, 142.7, 136.1, 128.9, 122.7, 122.5, 122.3, 121.7, 119.5, 118.0, 112.2, 111.4, 110.9, 110.1, 108.9, 55.8, 55.7, 55.6, 47.9, Anal. Calculated for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₄(%) : C, 71.27; H, 5.98; N, 6.93; Found: C, 71.15; H, 5.72; N, 6.69 %.

5, 6-Dichloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(4'-methoxyphenylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole (3q)

White, m.p. 167-168°C (Aqueous EtOH), FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3434, 2378, 1611, 1515, 1459, 1299, 1250, 1176 and 773, ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.62 (dd, 2H), 7.27 (dd, 2H), 7.01-6.70 (m, 3H), 6.88 (dd, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.3, 159.4, 156.1, 142.6, 135.4, 130.7, 127.5, 127.1, 126.6, 121.6, 120.9, 114.7, 114.4, 111.7, 55.4, 55.3, 48.2, Anal. calculated for C₂₂H₁₈Cl₂N₂O₂(%) : C: 63.87; H: 4.51; N: 6.87; Found: C: 63.91; H: 4.37; N: 6.72.

CONCLUSION

A new highly efficient methodology has been developed in THF solvent to generate N-aryImethylbenzimidazoles. Different diamines were used excellent results were found in each case. Operational simplicity, clean reaction procedure, easy purification has increased the brightness of this methodology and above all no side products were found at 90 °C temperature.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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