

Notes

Reaction of Lithioamines with Alkyl Halides: A Convenient Direct Synthesis of *N*-Alkylaminopyridines

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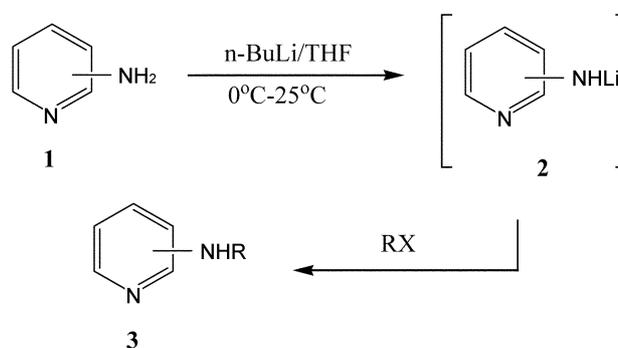
N-Alkylation of aromatic and heteroaromatic amines constitutes an important synthetic strategy for new C-N bond formation. Aromatic and heteroaromatic amines are less nucleophilic when compared to aliphatic amines and alkylation of these amines requires activated halides, alcohols, aldehydes and ketones or expensive metal catalysts to undergo the C-N bond formation process.¹⁻⁷ Generally when alkyl halides are used as alkylating agents, the reactions proceed slowly, and several polyalkylation/halogenated by-products are observed.⁸

Cross coupling reactions of aryl halides with aromatic and heteroaromatic amines using palladium catalyzed C-N coupling protocol emerges as a new for *N*-alkylation and *N*-arylation.^{7,9} In another recent paper Lowary *et al.*¹⁰ demonstrated a three-step process for *N*-monoalkylation of 2-aminopyridines, which involves initially protection of amino group as *N*-Boc.

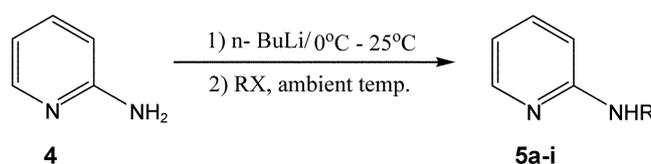
However many of the reported methods used complicated multistep reactions, under drastic reaction conditions, or *via* coupling reactions using expensive metal catalysts. Many of these methods leads to mixtures of secondary and tertiary amines that are difficult to separate.¹ To prevent overalkylation, troublesome and expensive multistep methods have been derived such as partial protection of primary amines¹¹ and reduction of mono *N*-substituted amides.¹² Although there were known good methods¹³⁻¹⁵ for synthesis of *N*-alkylation of aromatic and heteroaromatic amines, still improved selective methods continue to be sought.

According to reported paper,¹³⁻¹⁵ we investigated the *N*-monoalkylation of aminopyridine at -78 °C to -40 °C. However, during the experiment, we recognized that the generated lithioaminoanion from the reaction of aminopyridine with *n*-butyllithium is stable for 1 h at 0 °C to 25 °C.

Herein we report a general method of *N*-alkylation of aromatic and heteroaromatic amines **1** by treating the lithioaminoanions **2** generated at 0 °C to 25 °C in situ in presence of *n*-butyllithium with various alkyl halides (Scheme 1). The reactions are clean, mild, and high yields of the alkylated amines **3** are produced in very short reaction time.



Scheme 1



Scheme 2

The reaction of 2-aminopyridine **4** with primary alkyl halides yielding *N*-monoalkylated pyridines in excellent yields was first investigated at room temperature (Scheme 2).

The generation of lithioamino anion was indicated by the appearance of a reddish-brown colour after adding butyllithium, which was initially a colourless solution in THF. The same process was successfully extended to 3-aminopyridine and 4-aminopyridines using more or less similar alkyl halides. The corresponding 3-alkylaminopyridines and 4-alkylaminopyridines were obtained in good to excellent yields at 0 °C to 25 °C. The results are listed in Table 1.

We tried to get *N*-monoalkylated aminopyridines by reaction with lithioamino anion and alkyl chlorides or alkyl bromides. But the reaction time was retarded to compare with alkyl iodides and some amount of *N*-dialkylated aminopyridines were obtained as byproduct with desired product.

Table 1. Synthesis of *N*-alkylaminopyridines from aminopyridines and alkyl halides

Entry	Amine	Halide (RX)	Product (yield, %)
1	2-Aminopyridine	Methyl iodide	5a (85)
2	2-Aminopyridine	Ethyl iodide	5b (75)
3	2-Aminopyridine	<i>n</i> -Propyl iodide	5c (75)
4	2-Aminopyridine	<i>n</i> -Butyl bromide	5d (80)
5	2-Aminopyridine	Benzyl bromide	5e (85)
6	3-Aminopyridine	Methyl iodide	5f (73)
7	3-Aminopyridine	Ethyl iodide	5g (75)
8	4-Aminopyridine	Methyl iodide	5h (74)
9	4-Aminopyridine	Ethyl iodide	5i (80)

In summary, we have established a one pot direct *N*-alkylation process for several heteroaromatic amines using *n*-butyllithium at 0 °C to 25 °C. It is worth mentioning that reaction conditions are mild, clean and within a shorter reaction time the yields of the *N*-alkylated heteroaromatic amines were excellent.

Experimental Section

Typical synthetic procedure for the *N*-alkylation of heteroaromatic amines: To a stirred solution of 2-aminopyridine (0.05 mol) in dry THF (40 mL), *n*-butyllithium (0.05 mole) was added under N₂ atmosphere at 0 °C and continued stirring for 30 min. The temperature of the reaction mixture increased to room temperature and alkyl halide was added slowly (in case solid substrates THF solution was used). The reaction mixture was stirred at the ambient temperature for 1 hr. The reaction mixture was poured to water, NH₄Cl and extracted with chloroform (150 mL). The chloroform extract was dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated on a rotary evaporator to yield a residue which was either distilled or crystallized to afford the corresponding 2-alkylamino pyridines in 75-85% overall yields (Table 1). All of the obtained compounds **5a-5i** were synthesized similarly and the spectroscopic data are as follows.

2-(Methylamino)pyridine (5a). Colorless oil. IR (neat): 3268, 3042, 2941, 1603, 1520, 1411, 1330, 1289, 1154 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 8.09 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 5.0, 2.0, 0.8 Hz), 7.42 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 7.1, 2.0 Hz), 6.56 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 7.1, 5.0, 0.8 Hz), 6.37 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 8.4, 0.8, 0.8 Hz), 4.64 (br. s, 1H), 2.91 (d, 3 H, *J* = 5.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) 29.1, 106.2, 112.7, 137.4, 148.2, 159.7. Anal. Calcd for C₆H₈N₂: C, 66.64; H, 7.46. Found: C, 66.75; H, 7.12.

2-(Ethylamino)pyridine (5b). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.20 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 5.32 (br. s, 1 H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 14.7, 36.8, 106.1, 113.0, 137.2, 148.0, 159.1; Mass *m/z* = 122 (M⁺).

2-(Propylamino)pyridine (5c). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 0.995 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.64 (m, 2H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (br. s, 1H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (m, 1H),

7.41 (m, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) δ 11.4, 22.6, 44.0, 106.1, 112.3, 137.1, 148.0, 159.2; Mass *m/z* = 136 (M⁺).

2-(Butylamino)pyridine (5d). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 0.953 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.61 (m, 2H), 3.24 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (br. s, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (m, 1H), 7.4 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 13.8, 20.2, 31.6, 42.0, 106.1, 113.0, 137.2, 148.3, 159.1; Mass *m/z* = 150 (M⁺).

2-(Benzylamino)pyridine (5e). Colourless solid. mp 94-96 °C. IR: 3225, 3024, 2868, 1600, 1528, 1442, 1334, 1152, 1079 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.09 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.9 Hz), 7.38 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 7.0, 1.9 Hz), 7.35-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.57 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 7.0, 4.9, 0.9 Hz), 6.35 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 0.9, 0.9 Hz), 4.95 (br. s, 1H), 4.49 (d, 2H, *J* = 5.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 46.3, 106.8, 113.1, 127.2, 127.4, 128.6, 137.4, 139.2, 148.2, 158.7. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₂N₂: C, 78.23; H, 6.56. Found: C, 78.40; H, 6.68; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M + H⁺) C₁₂H₁₂N₂: 185.1073; Found: 185.1062.

3-(Methylamino)pyridine (5f). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 2.68 (s, 3H), 6.64 (br. s, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 29.5, 122.9, 124.5, 146.0, 137.6, 138.8; Mass *m/z* = 108 (M⁺).

3-(Ethylamino)pyridine (5g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 3.15 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (br. s, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 14.5, 37.9, 118.1, 124.3, 136.6, 138.1, 144.2; Mass *m/z* = 122 (M⁺).

4-(Methylamino)pyridine (5h). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 2.47 (s, 3H), 6.63 (br. s, 1H), 6.64 (m, 2H), 8.43 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 29.5, 109.1, 109.4, 150.2, 150.4, 154.9; Mass *m/z* = 108 (M⁺).

4-(Ethylamino)pyridine (5i). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.17 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (br. s, 1H), 6.44 (m, 2H), 8.17 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 14.3, 37.1, 107.0, 109.3, 150.1; Mass *m/z* = 122 (M⁺).

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