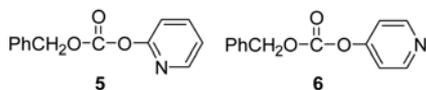


anism.^{13b}



Our study has now extended to the reactions of benzyl 4-pyridyl carbonate **6** with a series of alicyclic secondary amines in H₂O to get further information on the reaction mechanism. We wish to report that the effect of modification of the nucleofuge from 2-pyridyloxide to 4-pyridyloxide (*i.e.*, **5** → **6**) on reactivity and reaction mechanism is significant (*e.g.*, **6** is less reactive than **5** although the former possesses a less basic nucleofuge than the latter, and the aminolysis of **6** proceeds through a stepwise mechanism with two intermediates T[±] and T⁻ while that of **5** proceeds through a concerted pathway).

Results and Discussion

First-order kinetics were observed under the reaction conditions with the amine concentration in large excess. Pseudo-first-order rate constants (k_{obsd}) were calculated from the slopes of the linear plots of $\ln(A_{\infty} - A_t)$ vs. t . It is estimated from replicate runs that the uncertainty in the k_{obsd} values is less than $\pm 3\%$. The k_{obsd} values with the reaction conditions are summarized in Tables S1-S6 in the Supporting Information.

As shown in Figure 1, the plot of k_{obsd} vs. [amine] for the reactions of **6** with piperidine curves upward as a function of increasing amine concentration. It is noted that the $k_{\text{obsd}} \gg 0$ at [amine] = 0.0 M. Similarly curved plots with a positive k_{obsd} value at [amine] = 0.0 M are obtained for the reactions with the other amines (see Figures S1a-S5a in the Supporting Information). However, the k_{obsd} at [amine] = 0.0 M becomes smaller as the amine becomes less basic. This indicates that the contribution of H₂O and/or OH⁻ generated from hydrolysis of amines to the k_{obsd} value is significant, particularly for the reactions with strongly basic amines (*e.g.*, piperidine and 3-methylpiperidine). From our preliminary experiment, we found that **6** is rapidly hydrolyzed even

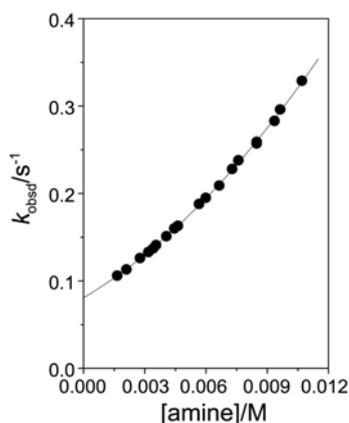


Figure 1. Plot of k_{obsd} vs. [amine] for the reaction of benzyl 4-pyridyl carbonate **6** with piperidine in H₂O at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C.

at a low OH⁻ concentration, *e.g.*, the second-order rate constant for the reaction of **6** with OH⁻ was measured to be 193 M⁻¹s⁻¹ in H₂O at 25.0 °C (see Figures S6 in the Supporting Information).

Reaction Mechanism. It is apparent that the k_{obsd} at [amine] = 0.0 M represents the contribution of the reaction of **6** with H₂O and/or OH⁻ ion, which was generated from hydrolysis of amines in the reaction condition. Thus, the k_{amine} (*i.e.*, the pseudo-first-order rate constant for the reactions of **6** with amines) has been calculated from the relationship $k_{\text{amine}} = k_{\text{obsd}} - 193 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1} \times [\text{OH}^-]$. The concentration of OH⁻ ion in the reaction mixture can be calculated from the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation, *i.e.*, $\text{pH} = \text{p}K_{\text{a}} + \log [\text{amine}]/[\text{conjugate acid of amine}]$. The k_{amine} values calculated in this way are graphically demonstrated in Figure 2 for the reaction of **6** with piperidine and in Figures S1b-S5b for those of **6** with other amines.

As shown in Figure 2, the plot of k_{amine} vs. [amine] curves upward passing through the origin. Such upward curvature is typical for aminolysis of esters reported previously to proceed through a rate-determining deprotonation process from T[±] to give T⁻.^{8,9} Thus, one can suggest that aminolysis of **6** proceeds through a stepwise mechanism with two intermediates T[±] and T⁻ as shown in Scheme 2. This contrasts to our recent report that the corresponding aminolysis of **5** proceeds through a concerted mechanism.^{13b} It is evident that modification of the nucleofuge from 2-pyridyloxide to 4-pyridyloxide (*i.e.*, **5** → **6**) causes a change in the reaction mechanism.

Dissection of k_{amine} into Kk_2 and Kk_3 . The k_{amine} values calculated above have been dissected into the second-order rate constants (Kk_2) and the third-order rate constants (Kk_3). One can express the pseudo-first-order rate constant (k_{amine}) for the reactions of **6** with amines as Eq. (1) on the basis of the kinetic results and the mechanism proposed in Scheme 2. Under the assumption, $k_{-1} \gg k_2 + k_3[\text{amine}]$, Eq. (1) can be simplified as Eq. (2). Thus, one might expect that the plot of $k_{\text{amine}}/[\text{amine}]$ vs. [amine] is linear if the above assumption is valid.

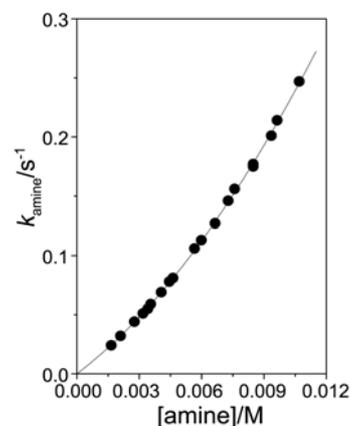
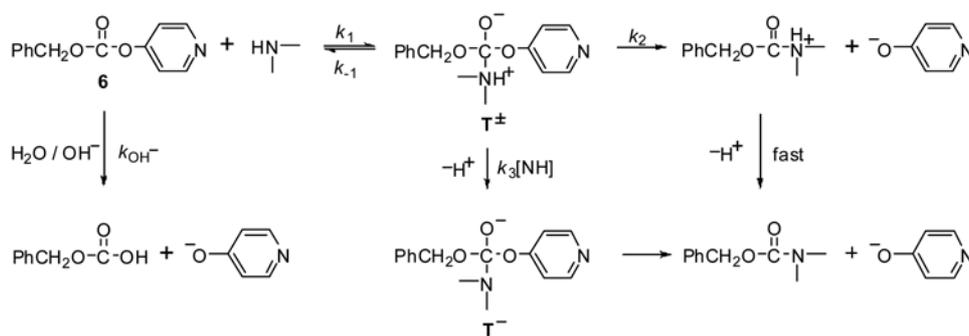


Figure 2. Plot of k_{amine} vs. [amine] for the reaction of benzyl 4-pyridyl carbonate **6** with piperidine in H₂O at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C.



Scheme 2

$$k_{\text{amine}} = (k_1 k_2 [\text{amine}] + k_1 k_3 [\text{amine}]^2) / (k_{-1} + k_2 + k_3 [\text{amine}]) \quad (1)$$

$$k_{\text{amine}} / [\text{amine}] = K k_2 + K k_3 [\text{amine}], \text{ where } K = k_1 / k_{-1} \quad (2)$$

In fact, the plot of $k_{\text{amine}}/[\text{amine}]$ vs. $[\text{amine}]$ is linear for the reaction with piperidine as shown in Figure 3. The corresponding plots for the reactions with the other amines are also linear (see Figures S1c-S5c in the Supporting Information), indicating that the current aminolysis of **6** proceeds through a stepwise mechanism with two intermediates T[±] and T⁻ and the assumption (*i.e.*, $k_{-1} \gg k_2 + k_3[\text{amine}]$) is valid. Accordingly, the Kk_2 and Kk_3 values were calculated from the intercept and the slope of the linear plots of $k_{\text{amine}}/[\text{amine}]$ vs. $[\text{amine}]$, respectively and are summarized in Table 1 together with the second-order rate constants k_N reported recently for the corresponding reactions of **5** for comparison.^{13b}

Effect of Modification of Nucleofuge on Reactivity. As shown in Table 1, the Kk_2 and Kk_3 values for the reactions of **6** decrease rapidly as the amine basicity decreases, *e.g.*, Kk_2 decreases from 13.4 M⁻¹s⁻¹ to 0.759 and 0.0104 M⁻¹s⁻¹, as the pK_a of the conjugate acid of amines decreases from 11.22 to 9.82 and 7.98, in turn. The k_N for the corresponding reactions of **5** also decreases as the amine basicity decreases but the dependence of k_N on pK_a is much less sensitive than that of Kk_2 (or Kk_3) for the reaction of **6**. Interestingly, the Kk_2 for the reactions of **6** is smaller than the k_N for the corresponding reaction of **5**, although 4-pyridyloxy in **6** is *ca.* 0.4 pK_a units less basic and a better nucleofuge than 2-pyridyloxy in **5**.¹⁴ One might suggest that the difference in the reaction mechanisms (*i.e.*, a concerted mechanism for the reactions of **5** vs. a stepwise mechanism with two

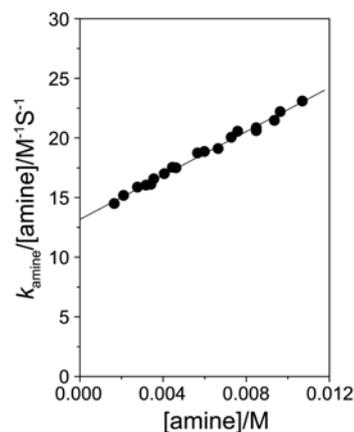


Figure 3. Plot of $k_{\text{amine}}/[\text{amine}]$ vs. $[\text{amine}]$ for the reaction of benzyl 4-pyridyl carbonate **6** with piperidine in H₂O at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C.

intermediates T[±] and T⁻ for those of **6**) is responsible for the difference in reactivity.

The effects of amine basicity on the second-order rate constants Kk_2 and on the third-order rate constants Kk_3 are illustrated in Figures 4(a) and (b), respectively. The Brønsted-type plots are linear with $\beta_{\text{nuc}} = 0.94$ and 1.18 for Kk_2 and Kk_3 , respectively. These β_{nuc} values appear to be the upper limit of β_{nuc} for reactions reported previously to proceed through a stepwise mechanism. Such large β_{nuc} values are consistent with the results that the Kk_2 and Kk_3 exhibit high sensitivity to the amine basicity as mentioned in the preceding section (Table 1).

Factors Determining Presence/Absence of Deprotonation Process. It has been reported that reactions of *O*-phenyl *O*-

Table 1. Summary of kinetic data for the reactions of benzyl 2-pyridyl carbonate **5** and benzyl 4-pyridyl carbonate **6** with alicyclic secondary amines in H₂O at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C

Amines	pK _a	5 ^a		6	
		$k_N/\text{M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	$Kk_2/\text{M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	$Kk_3/\text{M}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	
1	piperidine	11.22	37.9	13.4 ± 0.2	899 ± 24
2	3-methylpiperidine	11.07	44.0	12.9 ± 0.1	894 ± 17
3	piperazine	9.82	19.1	0.759 ± 0.03	23.6 ± 0.4
4	1-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine	9.38	5.03	0.112 ± 0.007	3.05 ± 0.05
5	morpholine	8.36	3.07	0.0543 ± 0.001	0.811 ± 0.01
6	<i>N</i> -formylpiperazine	7.98	1.09	0.0104 ± 0.0004	0.139 ± 0.004

^aThe kinetic data for the reactions of **5** were taken from ref. 13b.

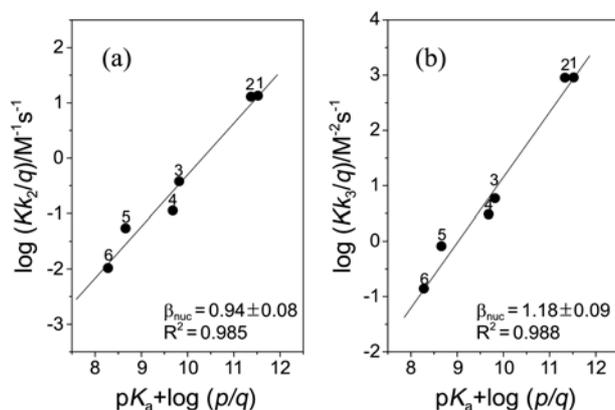


Figure 4. Brønsted-type plots for the reactions of benzyl 4-pyridyl carbonate **6** with alicyclic secondary amines in H₂O at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C: log Kk_2 vs. pK_a (a) and log Kk_3 vs. pK_a (b). The identity of points is given in Table 1.

4-nitrophenyl thionocarbonate **3** (and its derivatives) with weakly basic amines (*e.g.*, piperazinium ion and *N*-formyl-piperazine) proceed through T[±] and T⁻ in an aqueous solution, while the corresponding reactions with strongly basic amines (*e.g.*, piperidine and piperazine) proceed without the deprotonation process from T[±].⁹ Thus, Castro *et al.* have concluded that basicity of the attacking amine is a determinant that selects the mechanistic pathway.⁹ On the other hand, we have shown that reactions of *O*-aryl thionobenzoates (**2** and its derivatives) with amines proceed through a stepwise mechanism with one or two intermediates depending on the basicity of the incoming amine and the nucleofuge (*i.e.*, the reaction proceeds through T[±] when the leaving aryloxy is less basic than the incoming amine but through T[±] and T⁻ when the leaving group is more basic than the nucleophile).⁸

It is evident that the reactions with a weakly basic amine would result in a large k_{-1} while those of substrates possessing a strongly basic nucleofuge would give a small k_2 . Thus, one might suggest that the reactions of **2** and **3**, which were reported to proceed through a deprotonation process from T[±] to yield T⁻, would exhibit a small k_2/k_{-1} ratio by decreasing k_2 or by increasing k_{-1} .

The above argument can also account for the difference in the reaction mechanisms for aminolyses of **5** and **6**. As mentioned above, aminolysis of **5** in H₂O was concluded to proceed through a concerted mechanism on the basis of a linear Brønsted-type plot with $\beta_{\text{nuc}} = 0.49$, although the reaction was predicted to proceed through a stepwise mechanism with an intermediate as modeled by III.^{13b} Since the H-bonding interaction in III would accelerate the rate of leaving-group expulsion (*i.e.*, an increase in k_2) but would retard departure of the amine from III (*i.e.*, a decrease in k_{-1}), aminolysis of **5** would result in a large k_2/k_{-1} ratio. In contrast, such H-bonding interaction is structurally impossible for the reactions of **6**, indicating that the determinant of an increasing k_2 and a decreasing k_{-1} is absent. Accordingly, the reactions of **6** would result in a small k_2/k_{-1} ratio. This idea can be further supported by the fact that the k_{N} for the

reactions of **5** is larger than the Kk_2 for the corresponding reaction of **6** (Table 1), although 2-pyridyloxy in **5** is *ca.* 0.4 pK_a units more basic and a poorer nucleofuge than 4-pyridyloxy in **6**.¹⁴ Thus, it is proposed that aminolysis of **6** proceeds through T[±] and T⁻ as intermediates with a small k_2/k_{-1} ratio.

Conclusions

Our study has allowed us to conclude the following; (1) The effect of modification of the nucleofuge from 2-pyridyloxy to 4-pyridyloxy on reaction mechanism is significant. The aminolysis of **6** proceeds through a stepwise mechanism with T[±] and T⁻ as intermediates while the corresponding reaction of **5** was reported to proceed through a forced concerted mechanism. (2) The Kk_2 for the reaction of **6** is smaller than the k_{N} for the corresponding reaction of **5**, although 4-pyridyloxy in **6** is less basic and a better nucleofuge than 2-pyridyloxy in **5**. (3) The reaction of **6** would result in a smaller k_2 with a larger k_{-1} (*i.e.*, a small k_2/k_{-1} ratio) than that of **5** since the intramolecular H-bonding interaction, which was proposed for the reaction of **5**, is structurally impossible. The small k_2/k_{-1} ratio causes the reaction of **6** to proceed through T[±] and T⁻ and is responsible for the fact that **6** is less reactive than **5**.

Experimental Section

Materials. Substrate **6** was synthesized from the reaction of 4-hydroxypyridine with benzyl chloroformate in methylene chloride, which was generated from the reaction of phosgene and benzyl alcohol as described previously.¹⁵ The crude product was purified by recrystallization and its purity was checked by its melting point and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra. Amines and other chemicals were of the highest quality available. Doubly glass distilled water was further boiled and cooled under nitrogen to remove any dissolved CO₂ just before use.

Kinetics. Kinetic study was performed using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer equipped with a constant-temperature circulating bath. All the reactions were carried out under pseudo-first-order conditions in which the amine concentration was at least 20 times greater than the substrate concentration. Typically, the reaction was initiated by adding 5 μL of a 0.01 M of substrate stock solution in MeCN by a 10 μL syringe to a 10 mm UV cell containing 2.50 mL of the reaction medium and the amine nucleophile. The amine stock solution of *ca.* 0.2 M was prepared in a 25.0 mL volumetric flask by adding 2 equiv. of amine and 1 equiv. of HCl solution to make a self-buffered solution except for the solutions of piperidine and 3-methylpiperidine (the stock solutions of these amines were prepared by adding 5 equiv. amine and 4 equiv. of HCl solution to decrease the OH⁻ concentration in the self-buffered solution. The reactions were followed by monitoring disappearance of the substrate at 275 nm. Reactions were followed generally for 9-10 half-lives and k_{obsd} were calculated using the equation, $\ln(A_{\infty} -$

A_i) vs. t.

Product Analysis. 4-Pyridyloxide was liberated and identified as one of the reaction products by comparison of the UV-Vis spectra after completion of the reactions with those of the authentic samples under the reaction conditions.

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