Synthesis of Coumarins and Quinolones by Intramolecular Aldol Condensation Reactions of Titanium Enediolates

Alois Fürstner*, Denis N. Jumbam, Nongyuan Shi

Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz 1,

D-45470 Mülheim a.d. Ruhr

Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Günther Wilke on the occasion of his 70th birthday

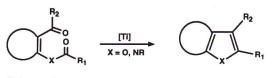
Z. Naturforsch. 50b, 326-332 (1995); received September 13, 1994

Low-Valent Titanium, Enediolates, Coumarins, 2-Quinolones, Aldol Condensation

Low-valent titanium prepared by the reduction of TiCl₃ with zinc dust oxidatively adds to α -ketoamides or α -ketoesters with the formation of the corresponding titanium enediolates. These 1,2-difunctional nucleophiles, which have hardly been used in organic synthesis so far, undergo regioselective intramolecular aldol condensation reactions with various electrophiles such as aldehydes, ketones, nitriles, esters and amides. This methodology allows the synthesis of differently substituted coumarin and 2-quinolone derivatives.

Low-valent titanium [Ti] prepared by the reduction of TiCl_x (x = 3, 4) with various reducing agents is a versatile tool for organic synthesis. Due to its high oxophilicity and electron transfer ability it promotes *i.a.* the reductive coupling of aldehydes or ketones to olefins, generally referred to as "McMurry reaction" [1]. A pronounced template effect of the titanium species makes the cyclization of dicarbonyl compounds particularly favourable and allows the formation of cycloalkenes independent of the ring size. These specific features are responsible for the widespread applications of this reaction in the synthesis of natural and non-natural products [1].

Its most important short-coming, however, stems from the limitation to aldehydes and ketones as essentially the only substrates that undergo such reductive C-C bond formations [1]. Only recently we have been able to extend the scope of titanium-promoted processes beyond these traditional starting materials. Intramolecular alkylidenations of esters or amides as depicted in Scheme 1 give a ready access to the furan, pyrrole,



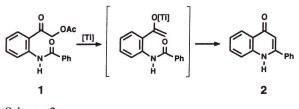
Scheme 1.

* Reprint requests to Priv.-Doz. Dr. A. Fürstner.

benzo[b]furan and indole series [2-4]. In pursuing this concept, we now describe a complementary approach to six-membered heterocycles based upon the oxidative addition of low-valent titanium to 1,2-dicarbonyl compounds.

Results and Discussion

It is well established that activated titanium [Ti] readily deoxygenates acyloin derivatives most likely *via* the respective titanium enolates [2 a, 5]. Although early attempts to trap these intermediates had failed [5], we were able to intercept one of them in an entropically favoured intramolecular way leading to the formation of the 4-quinolone **2** from substrate **1** (Scheme 2) [4].

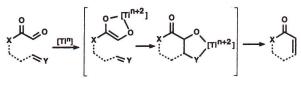




Although the reactivity of 1,2-dicarbonyl compounds might by closely tied to that of acyloins titanium-mediated transformations of this group of substrates have been even less studied. There is some precedence in the literature that they afford the respective enediolates upon treatment with low-valent metals (Scheme 3). As early as 1972,

0932-0776/95/0300-0326 \$06.00 © 1995 Verlag der Zeitschrift für Naturforschung. All rights reserved.

Floriani *et al.* reported a successful oxidative addition of $Cp_2Ti(CO)_2$ to 9,10-phenanthrenequinone [6]. Schobert *et al.* have later on extended this chemistry to other vicinal diketones and derivatives thereof using "reactive titanocene" (formed by reduction of Cp_2TiCl_2 with Mg) as the reagent. The 1,2-difunctional nucleophiles thus obtained were trapped with strong electrophiles such as H⁺, phosgene, PhBCl₂, PhPCl₂ and acid chlorides [7]. Similarly, α -ketoesters have been used in lowvalent titanium-mediated aldol reactions [8].



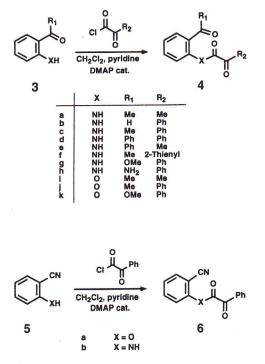
Scheme 3.

We intended to devise intramolecular versions of such reactions (Scheme 3). Being entropically biased, they might allow to intercept the titanium enediolates with less reactive electrophilic groups such as aldehydes, ketones, esters, amides or nitriles.

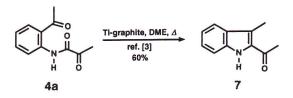
A set of suitable substrates 4a-k and 6a, bwas prepared by the acylation of commercially available compounds 3 and 5 with different α -ketoacid chlorides [9] under standard conditions (Scheme 4, Table II). In case of X = O only moderate yields have been obtained because of the low nucleophilicity of the phenolic –OH and of partial hydrolysis of the esters 4i, j and 6a during flash chromatography.

In a previous study [3] we reported the cyclization of substrate 4a to the simple indole alkaloid salvadoricine 7 in 60% yield as the only product that could be isolated from the crude reaction mixture (Scheme 5). The striking chemoselectivity of this transformation in favour of the ketone-amide rather than the conventional ketone-ketone coupling process together with the complete resistance of the carbonyl group of 7 to an excess of the titanium reagent used are without precedence in the literature.

This result, however, turned out to be an exception to the rule, since all other substrates of this series followed a different pathway as can be seen from the data compiled in Table I. Thus, compounds 4b-f readily cyclized to the corresponding



Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.

2-quinolone derivatives 8b-f in good yields (Scheme 6). Indoles were not observed, except in the case of substrate 4c where a minute amount of 2-benzoyl-3-methylindole ($\approx 5\%$) accompanied the formation of quinolone 8c. Similarly, esters 4i, j afforded the corresponding 3,4-disubstituted coumarins 8i, j without incident (Scheme 6).

Entries 6, 7, 10-13 in Table I comprise those cases in which we tried to intercept the intermediate enediolates with electrophilic groups other than an aldehyde or a ketone. An adjacent ester or a carboxylic acid amide group were only partly suitable for this purpose. Compound **4g** gave a

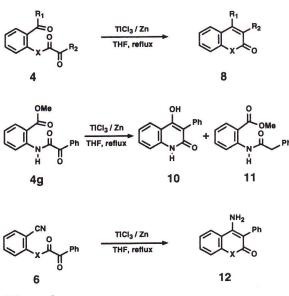




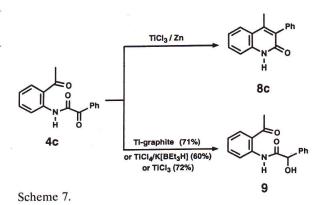
Table I. Low-valent titanium-induced 2-quinolone and coumarin syntheses. Method A: $TiCl_3$ was reduced with Zn-dust prior to the addition of the substrate [14]; Method B: reduction of $TiCl_3$ with Zn-dust in the presence of the substrate [4] (*cf.* Experimental section).

Entry	Substrate	Method	Reaction - time [h]	Product [yield %]
1	4b	A	5	8b (64%)
2	4c	Α	1	8c (80%) ^a
2 3 4 5	4d	Α	16	8d (68%)
4	4e	Α	16	8e (69%)
5	4f	Α	16	8f (50%)
6	4 g	B	3	10 (41%),
	U			11 (15%)
7	4h	A	16	12b (40%)
8	4i	A	0.5	8i (80%)
9	4j	A	1	8j (76%)
10	4 k	Α	16	3k (79%)
11	6a	Α	1	12a (85%)
12	6a	В	4	12a (86%)
13	6 b	Α	5	12b (45%).

^a Together with 2-benzoyl-3-methylindole ($\approx 5\%$).

mixture of the desired 4-hydroxy-2-quinolone 10 together with substantial amounts of the uncyclized deoxygenation product 11 [10]. Under the same conditions the phenylglyoxylate 4k was cleaved to the parent methyl 2-hydroxybenzoate 3k. A nitrile group, however, turned out to be suitable to trap the titanium enediolates, since compounds 6a, b gave the 4-amino-substituted derivatives 12a, b in reasonable to good yields (Table I, entries 11-13).

Remarkably, the results obtained proved to be highly dependent on the type of low-valent titanium [Ti] used. While in the salvadoricine synthesis titanium-graphite prepared by the reduction of TiCl₃ with potassium-graphite laminate (C₈K) [11] turned out to be suited best, this reagent failed to cyclize substrate 4c but led to the simple reduction of the α -ketoamide group (Scheme 7). The formation of compound 9 may be explained via the protonation of an intermediate titanium enediolate during work-up. Ammonium ion stabilized titanium clusters obtained from TiCl₄/ K(BEt₃H) [12] gave the same product. TiCl₃ itself, which has previously been employed to mediate pinacol cross-coupling reactions of methyl phenylglyoxylate with aldehydes and ketones [13], also afforded 9 in comparable yield. In contrast, the titanium species prepared from TiCl₃ and zinc dust either prior to the addition of the substrate (method A) [14] or in its presence (method B) [4] promoted the desired condensation reactions and have therefore been used throughout this study.



These results highlight the empirical state of the art of low-valent titanium chemistry, where subtle changes in the reagent preparation may have great impact for the outcome of the reaction [1]. In view of the lack of reliable information on the actual nature of such "low-valent" titanium species an accurate interpretation of these results on a morphological basis is presently impossible [15].

Applications of these titanium-mediated reactions to the synthesis of heterocyclic natural products and of pharmacologically active compounds are in progress.

Experimental

All reactions were carried out in pre-dried glassware under argon using Schlenk techniques. Melting points were recorded on a Gallenkamp apparatus and are uncorrected. NMR: Bruker AM 200 at 200 MHz (1H) and 50 MHz (13C), respectively, in CDCl₃ with TMS as internal standard unless stated otherwise. MS: EI, Finnigan MAT 311A (70 eV). IR: Nicolet FT-510. TLC: Polygram[®] Sil Gel/UV₂₅₄ (Macherey, Nagel & Co.). Flash chromatography: Merck silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh) with hexane/ethyl acetate in various proportions as eluent. TiCl3: Aldrich, 99%. Anhydrous solvents were obtained by distillation over the given drying agents: THF (potassium/benzophenone), DME (Na/K alloy), CH₂Cl₂ (CaH₂), pyridine (MS 4 Å). The 2-ketoacids were purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification. The corresponding acid chlorides have been prepared according to the literature [9].

Representative procedure for acylation reactions with 2-ketoacid chlorides

Phenylglyoxylic acid chloride (0.80 g, 4.74 mmol) [9] in CH₂Cl₂ (5 ml) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-hydroxybenzonitrile (0.50 g, 4.20 mmol) and a catalytic amount of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (ca. 50 mg) in CH₂Cl₂ (25 ml). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 4 h, quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with CH₂Cl₂ (50 ml each), the combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography with hexane/ethyl acetate (gradient $10/1 \rightarrow 4/1$) as eluent. All other α -ketoesters and α -ketoamides were prepared analogously. For yields, analytical and spectroscopic data see Table II.

General procedure for the formation of 2-quinolones and coumarins

Method A: A suspension of TiCl₃ (771 mg, 5.0 mmol) and zinc dust (653 mg, 10.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (50 ml) was refluxed under Ar for 4 h. After a solution of the respective substrate (2.5 mmol) in THF (10 ml) was added rapidly to the boiling black mixture of the active titanium reagent, reflux was continued until TLC showed the complete conversion of the starting material. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool to ambient temperature, filtered through a short pad of silica, the insoluble residue was washed with

THF (\approx 30 ml) and ethyl acetate (\approx 50 ml) in several portions, the combined filtrates were evaporated and the residue chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate in various proportions. For the yields obtained and the reaction times see Table I. The analytical and spectroscopic data of the products (*cf.* Table I) are compiled below.

3-Phenyl-2-quinolone (8b)

M.p. 198–200 °C (dec.) (lit. 235 °C [16]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 2850–3250, 1660, 1570, 1495, 750, 700. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 11.94 (br s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.71–7.76 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.51 (m, 5H), 7.18 (dt, J = 0.6, 3.8, 1H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSOd₆): δ = 160.7, 138.0, 137.3, 135.9, 131.2, 129.8, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 121.6, 119.2, 114.3. – MS: m/z (rel. intensity, %): 221 ([M⁺], 100), 193 (7), 165 (15), 110 (8), 89 (8).

4-Methyl-3-phenyl-2-quinolone (8c)

M.p. 262–264 °C. – IR (cm⁻¹): 2750–3100, 1650, 1610, 1600, 1560, 1500, 1430, 1380, 1285, 980, 890, 750, 705. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 12.03 (br s, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.5, 1H), 7.18–7.56 (m, 8H), 3.35 (s, 3H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 161.0, 143.2, 137.8, 136.3, 132.0, 130.3, 130.0, 127.8, 127.1, 125.2, 121.7, 119.9, 115.1, 16.5. – MS: m/z(rel. intensity, %): 235 ([M⁺], 67), 234 (100), 216 (14).

N-(2'-Acetylphenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetamide (9)

IR (cm⁻¹): 2900–3500, 1655, 1580, 1530, 1455, 1250, 750. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 12.43 (br s, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 8.4, 1H), 8.09 (dd, J = 1.5, 8, 1H), 7.18–7.63 (m, 7H), 6.81 (d, J = 4), 5.10 (d, J = 4, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 202.2, 172.1, 140.3, 138.9, 134.3, 132.1, 128.0, 127.5, 126.3, 122.7, 119.4, 73.9, 28.6. – MS: *m/z* (rel. intensity, %): 269 ([M⁺], 10), 251 (49), 222 (9), 146 (34), 136 (100), 120 (54), 105 (17), 92 (16), 77 (22).

3,4-Diphenyl-2-quinolone (8d)

M.p. 303-305 °C (lit. 305-307 °C, 309-310 °C (EtOH) [17]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 2700-3200, 1645, 1595, 1570, 1500, 1485, 1440, 1430, 1375, 1290, 760, 700, 670, 650, 610, 560. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 12.10$ (br s, 1 H), 6.97–7.53 (14 H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 160.9$, 147.8, 138.0, 135.8, 135.4, 131.7, 130.4, 129.8, 129.2, 127.7, 127.2, 126.8, 126.5, 126.3, 121.4, 119.6, 114.9. – MS: m/z (rel. intensity, %): 297 ([M⁺], 59), 296 (100), 278 (17), 267 (10).

A. Fürstner et al. · Intramolecular Aldol Condensation of Titanium Enediolates

Com- pound	Yield [%]	m.p. [°C]	IR [cm ⁻¹]	MS: <i>m/z</i> [%]	¹ H NMR $[\delta]$	¹³ C NMR [δ]
4b	71	120-122	3240, 1700,	253 ([M ⁺], 12), 105 (100)	12.46 (br s, 1H, NH), 10.01 (s, 1H, CHO)	195.1, 186.9, 160.9
4c	88	107-108	1680, 1665 3190, 1685, 1645	$267 ([M^+], 6),$ 162 (100)	12.93 (br s, 1H, NH), 2.67 (s, 3H, $-Me$)	201.8, 186.7, 160.3 28.0
4 d	80	132.5-133.5	3270, 1690, 1670, 1640	$329 ([M^+], 2),$ 224 (100)	12.11 (br s, 1H, NH)	198.4, 186.6, 159.9
4e	74	99-100	3240, 1690, 1630	267 ([M ⁺], 5), 224 (100)	11.90 (br s, 1H, NH), 2.55 (s, 3H, -Me)	198.6, 196.2, 158.7, 24.0
4f	75	149-150	3150, 1695, 1655	273 ([M ⁺], 7), 162 (100)	13.07 (br s, 1H, NH), 2.68 (s, 3H, -Me)	201.6, 177.6, 159.4, 28.0
4 g	89	101-102	3440, 1710, 1680	283 ([M ⁺], 7), 146 (100)	12.44 (br s, 1H, NH), 3.92 (s, 3H, -OMe)	186.8, 167.8, 159.8, 52.4
4h	76	181-184	3400, 3190, 1690, 1660, 1610	268 ([M ⁺], 1), 163 (100)	12.88 (br s, 1 H, NH), 8.34 (br s, 2 H, NH ₂) ^c	187.6, 170.1, 160.1°
4i	40	syrup	1770, 1740, 1685	206 ([M ⁺], 1), 121 (100)	2.60, 2.53 (s each, 3H, -Me)	196.5, 190.5, 158.6, 28.5, 26.2
4j	59	68-71	1750, 1690	105 (100)	2.58 (s, 3H, -Me)	196.8, 184.3, 160.8, 28.9
4 k	89	59-61	1760, 1715, 1695	105 (100) ^a	3.83 (s, 3H, –OMe)	184.6, 164.6, 161.3, 52.3
6a	58	syrup	2240, 1760, 1690	105 (100) ^b	8.12–8.18 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.75 (m, 7H)	183.1, 159.6, 150.3, 114.0, 106.1
6 b	81	106-108	3330, 2220, 1705, 1665	250 ([M ⁺], 9), 105 (100)	9.51 (br s, 1H, –NH)	185.4, 158.6, 115.3, 103.0

Table II. Analytical and characteristic spectroscopic data of the starting materials.

^a Chemical ionization (NH₃): 302 ([M+NH₄]⁺, 100%); ^b chemical ionization (NH₃): 269 ([M+NH₄]⁺, 100%; ^c spectrum recorded in DMSO-d₆.

3-Methyl-4-phenyl-2-quinolone (8e)

M.p. 238–239 °C (lit. 238–239 °C [18]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 2800–3190, 1650, 1610, 1595, 1560, 1430, 1370, 1280, 1020, 755, 705, 670, 610. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 11.91 (br s, 1H), 7.20–7.58 (m, 7H), 7.01 and 6.85 (ddAB, J = 2, 6.6, 8.4, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 161.7, 146.7, 137.1, 136.3, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 126.8, 125.8, 121.2, 119.7, 114.8, 13.9. – MS: *m*/*z* (rel. intensity, %): 235 ([M⁺], 56), 234 (100), 216 (16).

4-Methyl-3-(2'-thienyl)-2-quinolone (8f)

M.p. 263–265 °C. – IR (cm⁻¹): 2650–3180, 1640, 1600, 1555, 1505, 1435, 1385, 1280, 1235, 1160, 955, 940, 900, 850, 790, 780, 750, 735, 690, 660, 570. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 11.87 (br s, 1H), 7.79 (dd, J = 0.6, 4.2, 1H), 7.65 (dd, J = 0.6, 2.4, 1H), 7.51 (dt, J = 0.6, 3.8, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 0.4, 4.2, 1H), 7.22 (dt, J = 0.6, 3.8, 1H), 7.09–7.14 (m, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 159.8, 144.4, 136.9, 135.4, 129.7, 128.5, 126.5, 125.5, 124.9, 124.1, 121.3, 119.1, 114.5, 16.4. – MS: m/z (rel. intensity, %): 241 ([M⁺], 100), 240 (53), 208 (14), 196 (7).

4-Hydroxy-3-phenyl-2-quinolone (10)

M.p. 318–320 °C (dec.) (lit. 320 °C [20]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 2700–3500, 1655, 1610, 1590, 1500, 1400, 1290, 1160, 1140, 760, 700, 555. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 11.47 (br s, 1 H), 10.05 (br s, 1 H), 7.91 (dd, J = 1.2, 8, 1 H), 7.49 (dt, J = 1.0, 7, 1 H), 7.24–7.42 (m, 6 H), 7.16 (dt, J = 1.2, 7, 1 H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 162.4, 157.0, 137.7, 133.0, 130.9, 130.3, 127.4, 126.6, 122.8, 120.8, 115.2, 114.6, 112.4. – MS: m/z (rel. intensity, %): 237 ([M⁺], 100), 120 (87), 92 (25).

N-(2'-Methoxycarbonylphenyl)-phenylacetamide (11)

Syrup. – IR (cm⁻¹): 3300, 3040, 2960, 1710, 1690, 1610, 1590, 1530, 1450, 1440, 1300, 1260, 1090. – ¹H NMR: δ = 11.05 (br s, 1H), 8.70 (dd, J = 1, 8.4, 1H), 7.97 (dd, J = 1.8, 7.8, 1H), 7.51 (dt, J = 1.6, 7.4, 1H), 7.20–7.40 (m, 5H), 7.05 (dt, J = 1.4, 7.4, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 2H). – ¹³C NMR: δ = 169.6, 168.0, 140.9, 134.0, 130.3, 129.1, 128.4, 126.8, 122.1, 120.0, 114.8, 107.4, 51.8, 45.5. – MS: *m*/*z* (rel. intensity, %): 269 ([M⁺], 25), 178 (44), 151 (49), 146 (100), 119 (33), 91 (38), 65 (13).

4-Amino-3-phenyl-2-quinolone (12b)

M.p. 326-328 °C (dec.) (lit. 325 °C [19]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 3470, 3320, 2800-3250, 1630, 1610, 1595, 1510, 1415, 755, 700. – ¹H NMR (DMSO)-d₆): $\delta = 11.04$ (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 4, 1H), 7.24-7.46 (m, 7H), 7.10 (t, J = 3.6, 1H), 5.86 (br s, 2H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 161.3$, 148.1, 138.0, 134.8, 130.7, 129.7, 128.1, 126.3, 122.9, 120.2, 114.8, 113.2, 105.7. – MS: m/z (rel. intensity, %): 236 ([M⁺], 66), 235 (100), 217 (20).

Representative procedure for the "instant" preparation of coumarins by method B

A suspension of TiCl₃ (771 mg, 5.0 mmol), zinc dust (653 mg, 10.0 mmol) and substrate **6a** (630 mg, 2.51 mmol) in THF (30 ml) was refluxed under Ar for 4 h until TLC showed complete conversion of the starting material. After cooling to room temperature the mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica, the inorganic residue was washed with ethyl acetate (≈ 50 ml) in several portions, the filtrate was evaporated and the residue chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (gradient 4/1 \rightarrow 1/1) as eluent. Thus, product **12a** was obtained as pale-yellow crystals (510 mg, 86%).

3,4-Dimethylcoumarin (8i)

M.p. 110–111 °C (lit. 112–114 °C [21]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 2850–3050, 1705, 1625, 1600, 1490, 1460, 1380, 1290, 1150, 1090, 780, 760, 730. – ¹H NMR: δ = 7.20-7.59 (m, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H). – ¹³C NMR: δ = 161.5, 151.5, 145.5, 129.9, 123.8, 123.6, 121.8, 120.1, 116.2, 14.5, 13.0. – MS: *m/z* (rel. intensity, %): 174 ([M⁺], 100), 146 (30), 131 (46).

4-Methyl-3-phenylcoumarin (8j)

M.p. 144–146 °C (lit. 156 °C [22]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 3060, 2940, 1715, 1620, 1610, 1490, 1450, 1380, 1300, 1180, 1150, 1080, 965, 750, 705. – ¹H NMR: δ = 7.66 (dd, J = 1.6, 8, 1H), 7.23–7.56 (m, 8H), 2.32 (s, 3H). – ¹³C NMR: δ = 160.5, 152.3, 147.2, 134.0, 130.9, 129.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 124.7, 123.8, 120.1, 116.4, 16.1. – MS: m/z (rel. intensity, %): 236 ([M⁺], 100), 235 (65), 208 (37), 207 (49), 178 (21), 131 (20), 89 (14), 77 (8).

4-Amino-3-phenylcoumarin (12a)

M.p. 179–180 °C (lit. 182 °C [23]). – IR (cm⁻¹): 3430, 3340, 3250, 1735, 1625, 1610, 1590, 1575, 1525, 1440, 1290, 1250, 1220, 755, 705. – ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 8.15$ (dd, J = 8.6, 1.7, 1H), 7.25–7.65 (m, 8H), 6.75 (br s, 2H). – ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 160.7$, 152.4, 150.6, 133.6, 131.7, 130.8, 128.4, 127.0, 123.4, 123.2, 116.3, 114.4, 97.4. – MS: *m*/*z* (rel. intensity, %): 237 ([M⁺], 100), 236 (61), 209 (26), 180 (28), 165 (10), 120 (16), 90 (14), 77 (11).

Acknowledgement

Financial support by the Volkswagen-Stiftung, Hannover, is gratefully acknowledged.

- [1] a) J. E. McMurry, Chem. Rev. 89, 1513 (1989); b) D. Lenoir, Synthesis 1989, 883;
 - c) C. Betschart, D. Seebach, Chimia 43, 39 (1989); d) A. Fürstner, Angew. Chem. 105, 171 (1993); Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 105, 164 (1993).
- [2] a) A. Fürstner, D. N. Jumbam, Tetrahedron 48, 5991 (1992):
 - b) A. Fürstner, D. N. Jumbam, H. Weidmann, Tetrahedron Lett. 32, 6695 (1991);

c) A. Fürstner, D. N. Jumbam, G. Seidel, Chem. Ber. 127, 1125 (1994);

- d) Pyrroles: A. Hupperts, A. Fürstner, unpublished; e) A. Fürstner, A. Ernst, Tetrahedron 51, 773 (1995).
- [3] A. Fürstner, D. N. Jumbam, J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. 1993, 211.
- [4] A. Fürstner, A. Hupperts, A. Ptock, E. Janssen, J. Org. Chem. 59, 5215 (1994).
- [5] J. E. McMurry, M. G. Silvestri, M. P. Fleming, T. Hoz, M. W. Grayston, J. Org. Chem. 43, 3249 (1978).
- [6] C. Floriani, G. Fachinetti, J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. 1972, 790.
- [7] a) R. Schobert, Angew. Chem. 100, 869 (1988); Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 27, 855 (1987); b) S. Dürr, U. Höhlein, R. Schobert, J. Organomet. Chem. 458, 89 (1993).
- [8] a) T. Mukaiyama, H. Sugimura, T. Ohno, S. Kobayashi, Chem. Lett. 1989, 1401; b) H. Takeshita, A. Mori, S. Nakamura, Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. 57, 3152 (1984); c) N. Kato, H. Takeshita, Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. 58, 1574 (1985).
- [9] a) α -Ketoacid chlorides: H. C. J. Ottenheijm, J. H. M. De Man, Synthesis 1975, 163; b) for a convenient preparation of α -ketoacids see: J. S. Nimitz, H. S. Mosher, J. Org. Chem. 46, 211 (1981).
- [10] Schobert et al. and Geise et al. reported similar deoxygenation reactions occurring with vic-diketones. The precise mechanism for this Clemmensen-type reduction has not yet been established, cf. ref. [7a] and: Y. Dang, H. J. Geise, Bull. Soc. Chim. Belg. 100, 375 (1991).

[11] a) A. Fürstner, H. Weidmann, Synthesis 1987, 1071; b) A. Fürstner, R. Csuk, C. Rohrer, H. Weidmann, J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1, 1729 (1988); c) D. L. J. Clive, C. Zhang, K. S. K. Murthy, W. D.

Hayward, S. Daigneault, J. Org. Chem. 56, 6447 (1991).

- [12] H. Bönnemann, B. Korall, Angew. Chem. 104, 1506 (1992); Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 31, 1490 (1992). We thank Prof. Bönnemann and his coworkers for providing a sample of the titanium clusters.
- [13] a) A. Clerici, O. Porta, Synthesis 1993, 99;
- b) A. Clerici, O. Porta, J. Org. Chem. 47, 2852 (1982).
- [14] J. E. McMurry, T. Lectka, J. G. Rico, J. Org. Chem. 54, 3748 (1989)
- [15] Only recently two in-depth investigations on the actual nature of the McMurry agents prepared by reduction of TiCl₃ with Mg or LiAlH₄, respectively, have been reported cf. a) L. E. Aleandri, S. Becke, B. Bogdanovic, D. J. Jones, J. Roziere, J. Organomet. Chem. 472, 97 (1994); b) L. E. Aleandri, B. Bogdanovic, A. Gaidies, D. J.

Jones, S. Liao, A. Michalowicz, J. Roziere, A. Schott, J. Organomet. Chem. 459, 87 (1993).

- [16] L. Capuano, A. Ahlhelm, H. Hartmann, Chem. Ber. 119, 2069 (1986).
- [17] S. D. Work, D. R. Bryant, C. R. Hauser, J. Org. Chem. 29, 722 (1964).
- [18] F. Künzle, J. Schmutz, Helv. Chim. Acta 53, 798 (1970). [19] W. Stadlbauer, T. Kappe, Synthesis **1981**, 833.
- [20] W. Stadlbauer, O. Schmut, T. Kappe, Monatsh.
- [20] W. Stautouder, G. Schmer, E. Erpper, Chem. 111, 1005 (1980).
 [21] J. Motoyoshiya, A. Teranishi, R. Mikoshiba, I. Yamamoto, H. Gotoh, J. Enda, Y. Ohshiro, T. Agawa, J. Org. Chem. 45, 5385 (1980).
- [22] P. Pulla Rao, G. Srimannarayana, Synthesis 1981, 887
- [23] W. Stadlbauer, T. Kappe, Monatsh. Chem. 115, 467 (1984).