Microwave-Promoted Iminyl Radical Fragmentations: A Practical and Efficient Method of Functionalization

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Microwave-Promoted Iminyl Radical Fragmentations: A Practical and Efficient Method of Functionalization

Mary Megan Jackman

A thesis submitted to the faculty of Brigham Young University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

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ABSTRACT

Microwave-Promoted Iminyl Radical Fragmentations: A Practical and Efficient Method of Functionalization

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Master of Science

We report a novel fragmentation and functionalization method using a cyclic iminyl radical. Formation of this radical occurs by microwave heating under mild conditions and short reaction times. The reaction avoids the use of explosive or toxic radical initiators and propagating agents. This reaction is versatile, with the ability to install two functional groups that are ultimately derived from a ketone in the substrate precursor. A variety of radical traps capable of forming both carbon-carbon bonds and carbon-heteroatom bonds have been tested, and the products are obtained in good yields. We demonstrate the power of this reaction by functionalizing complex natural products.

Keywords: methodology, iminyl radical, fragmentation, microwave irradiation
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. LIST OF SCHEMES ........................................................................................................................................ vi

2. LIST OF FIGURES ...................................................................................................................................... viii

3. LIST OF TABLES .......................................................................................................................................... ix

1. Chapter 1. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 1

   1.1 Development of oxime derivatives as iminyl radical precursors .......................................................... 1

   1.2 Iminyl radical cyclization reactions ...................................................................................................... 2

   1.3 Incidents of nitrile formation in literature ........................................................................................... 3

   1.4 Deliberate nitrile formation and fragmentation .................................................................................. 4

   1.5 References ............................................................................................................................................... 5

2. Chapter 2. Iminyl Radical Fragmentation Optimization .............................................................................. 7

   2.1 Initial Reaction Results ......................................................................................................................... 7

   2.2 Perceived Reaction Floor ..................................................................................................................... 8

   2.3 Solvent Optimization ............................................................................................................................ 9

   2.4 Synthesis of various oxime ethers for fragmentation in the presence of TEMPO ......................... 10

   2.5 References .............................................................................................................................................. 12
   3.1 Radical Traps for C–C Bond Formation .............................................................................. 13
   3.2 Azide radical trap ................................................................................................................ 16
   3.3 Radical Traps for C–X Bond Formation ............................................................................. 18
   3.4 References ........................................................................................................................... 19

4. Chapter 4. Other attempted nitrogen–centered radical transformations .............................. 21
   4.1 Aminyl radical 5-exo cyclization ....................................................................................... 21
   4.2 Iminyl radical 6-exo cyclization ....................................................................................... 24

5. Chapter 5. Applications, Future Work, and Conclusions ...................................................... 26
   5.1 Application of iminyl radical fragmentation to the ring distortion strategy ................. 26
   5.2 Stereochemistry .................................................................................................................. 28
   5.3 Six Membered Ring Fragmentation ................................................................................... 29
   5.4 Conclusion .......................................................................................................................... 30
   5.5 References ........................................................................................................................... 31

6. Chapter 6: Experimental and Spectroscopic Data ................................................................. 32
   6.1 General Methods ................................................................................................................ 32
   6.2 Experimental Details ......................................................................................................... 32
   5.3 Selected NMR Spectra ...................................................................................................... 45
LIST OF SCHEMES

Scheme 1-1. Formation of iminyl radical via an oxime derivative ........................................... 1
Scheme 1-2. Example of 5-exo iminyl radical cyclization (Walton) ........................................... 2
Scheme 1-3. Formation of nitrile from iminyl radical (Ingold) .................................................. 3
Scheme 1-4. Mechanism of nitrile formation via fragmentation ................................................ 3
Scheme 1-5. Mechanism of H-abstraction and nitrile formation (Rodriguez) ............................. 4
Scheme 1-6. Nitrile formation and subsequent compound reduction (Swenson) ....................... 5
Scheme 1-7. Reaction exploration of this thesis ......................................................................... 5
Scheme 2-1. Oxime ether formation ......................................................................................... 7
Scheme 2-2. Initial attempt at fragmentation ............................................................................. 8
Scheme 2-3. Proposed mechanism for iminyl radical fragmentation ........................................ 8
Scheme 3-1. Fragmentation with radical trap 48 ..................................................................... 15
Scheme 3-2. Unsuccessful trapping of benzylic radicals by radical trap 48 ............................. 16
Scheme 3-3. Unsuccessful fragmentation with radical trap 54 .............................................. 16
Scheme 3-4. Formation of elimination product from fragmentation ......................................... 17
Scheme 3-5. Fragmentation with azide radical trap 59 .......................................................... 18
Scheme 3-6. Fragmentation with 2-iodopropane as radical trap ............................................. 19
Scheme 4-1. Coupling to produce designed cyclization precursor .......................................... 21
Scheme 4-2. Boc protection of phenoxyamine 16 .................................................................... 22
Scheme 4-3. Formation of bromoalkene 63 ............................................................................. 22
Scheme 4-4. Attempted microwave aminyl radical cyclization ............................................. 23
Scheme 4-5. Formation of iminyl radical 6-exo cyclization precursor ..................................... 24
Scheme 4-6. Attempted 6-exo cyclization of an iminyl radical.................................................... 24
Scheme 5-1. Formation of estrone oxime ether ............................................................................ 27
Scheme 5-2. Fragmentation of estrone oxime ether 72 with TEMPO........................................... 27
Scheme 5-3. Formation of estrone derivative 74 via elimination of trapped azide ...................... 28
Scheme 5-4. Possible reversible step during iminyl radical fragmentation................................... 30
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3-1. Methyl 2-((phenylsulfonyl)methyl)acrylate ............................................................... 13
Figure 3-2. Hypervalent iodide reagent used as a carbon radical trap .......................................... 15
Figure 3-3. Pyridinyl benzyl azide radical trap ............................................................................. 16
Figure 3-4. IBX derivative azide radical trap ............................................................................... 17
Figure 3-5. Benzyl sulfonyl azide radical trap ............................................................................... 18
LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1. Reaction temperature optimization................................................................. 9
Table 2-2. Solvent optimization......................................................................................... 9
Table 2-3. Percent yield for fragmentation of various oxime ethers. .............................. 11
Table 3-1. Yields obtained from use of acrylate 39........................................................ 14
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development of oxime derivatives as iminyl radical precursors

Iminyl radical chemistry is an appealing strategy to form carbon–nitrogen bonds present in many pharmaceuticals and bioactive natural products. Although this chemistry has been traditionally limited in applicability due to explosive and toxic radical generators and propagators, recent advances have decreased the need for unfavorable hazards.\(^1\) Due to key advances in reaction conditions, processes using iminyl radicals have been gaining momentum as viable synthetic strategies.\(^2\)

The elimination of explosive and toxic radical initiators and propagators has resulted from Walton’s pioneering work with oxime derivatives.\(^3\) Walton’s work has provided operable precursors to generate iminyl radicals via microwave, UV, or visible light irradiation.\(^2\) As shown in Scheme 1-1, the incorporation of a weak N–O bond in 1 provides a site for homolytic cleavage, resulting in an iminyl radical 2. Iminyl radicals undergo slower reductions and faster cyclizations than analogous aminyl radicals, providing a potent reactive intermediate for the formation of cyclization products.\(^4\)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{R}^1\text{N}^\text{O}^\cdot\text{R}^2 \\
1
\end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c}
\text{R}^1\text{N}^\cdot \\
2
\end{array}
\]

Scheme 1-1. Formation of iminyl radical via an oxime derivative
1.2 Iminyl radical cyclization reactions

Many groups, including those of Walton,\textsuperscript{4} Bower,\textsuperscript{5} Leonori,\textsuperscript{6} Yu,\textsuperscript{7} and us\textsuperscript{8} have used oxime derivatives to form iminyl radicals that transform straight-chain precursors into cyclization products. Oxime ethers, oxime esters, acyloximes, dioxime oxalates, and oxime carbonates have all been shown as viable starting materials for iminyl radical generation \textit{via} microwave irradiation, UV irradiation, or visible light irradiation.\textsuperscript{2} Depending on precursor design, many privileged pharmaceutical scaffolds have been synthesized in good to excellent yields, including dihydropyrroles, pyrroles, 2-acylpyrroles, dihydroquinazolines, quinazolines, phenanthridines, isoquinolines, quinolines, and highly substituted pyridines.\textsuperscript{2}

Strategic design of the starting materials has placed reactive moieties ($\pi$ bonds, aromatic systems) in favorable positions to facilitate 5-\textit{endo}, 5-\textit{exo}, 6-\textit{endo}, or 6-\textit{exo} cyclization products.\textsuperscript{2} Scheme 1-2 shows an example of the proposed mechanism for a 5-\textit{exo} cyclization reported by Walton.\textsuperscript{3b} Microwave irradiation cleaves the weak N–O bond, and results in a phenoxy radical byproduct (that presumably abstracts a hydrogen atom from the solvent to form phenol, or forms dimerization byproducts) and iminyl radical intermediate 4. The iminyl radical intermediate undergoes an intramolecular addition to the $\pi$ bond in a 5-\textit{exo} cyclization, resulting in primary carbon radical 5. The carbon radical abstracts a hydrogen atom from toluene, resulting in compound 6, which was isolated by Walton.

![Scheme 1-2. Example of 5-exo iminyl radical cyclization (Walton)](image_url)
1.3 Incidents of nitrile formation in literature

In some cases, even with an optimized radical acceptor, cyclization products did not occur. Interestingly, nitrile formation was occasionally observed. Ingold reported nitrile formation in the reaction highlighted in Scheme 1-3. Starting material 7 produced varying yields of 8, 9, and 10 after thermal decomposition.

![Scheme 1-3. Formation of nitrile from iminyl radical (Ingold)](image)

One possible mechanism of formation of nitrile 10 is shown in Scheme 1-4. The N–O bond of 7 is cleaved via heat, resulting in the resonance stabilized byproduct of 9 and iminyl radical 8. Instead of cyclization, the observed products indicate that further fragmentation of 8 occurs. Nitrile formation could occur by the formation of an additional \( \pi \) bond, utilizing the iminyl radical and the homolytic cleavage of the neighboring C–O bond. This would result in observed product 10, and formation of an additional equivalent of byproduct 9.

![Scheme 1-4. Mechanism of nitrile formation via fragmentation](image)

Rodriguez, Walton, and Yu also report nitrile products that could be the result of H-abstraction via a radical mechanism. A plausible mechanism for H-abstraction and nitrile formation is proposed in Scheme 1-5, using Rodriguez’s work as a template.
In the previously cited works, the nitrile product was an unwanted byproduct, and optimization attempted to minimize nitrile synthesis. The work presented in this thesis seeks to exploit this nitrile formation via fragmentation. Nitriles are historically versatile functional groups, and deliberate formation of the nitrile can lead to further functionalization of the starting material. The pattern of fragmentation can also beneficially rearrange bonds that are traditionally difficult to manipulate.

1.4 Deliberate nitrile formation and fragmentation

This work explores the fragmentation of cyclic oxime ether precursors into straight chain products, as shown in Scheme 1-6. The fragmentation of the starting material forms a carbon radical in addition to the generation of the nitrile functional group. Previous work has shown nitrile formation and carbon radical formation via fragmentation, but the reactions were completed in the presence of hydrogen atom donors. The resulting carbon radical was subsequently reduced, and further functionality was lost. As shown in Scheme 1-6, Rychnovsky demonstrated good yields of nitrile migration via radical intermediate 15. Subsequent hydrogen atom abstraction of nBu3SnH provided reduced compound 16 with an effective transformation, but no further functionality added to the compound.
This work aims to gain further functionality by avoiding the use of hydrogen donors and carefully selecting radical traps to interact with the nascent carbon radical. This results in the ability to form C–C, C–O, C–I, or C–N bonds in the same pot as nitrile generation.

The reaction advantageously avoids the use of toxic and explosive radical initiators and propagators, reduces reaction times by using microwave heating, enables potent experimental design with tailor–made carbon–heteroatom or carbon–carbon bonds, and installs two new functional groups in place of one.

1.5 References


CHAPTER 2. IMINYL RADICAL FRAGMENTATION OPTIMIZATION

2.1 Initial Reaction Results

Previous projects in the lab had focused on cyclization of iminyl radicals. We noted that byproducts of some published cyclizations often included nitriles. This sparked interest in purposely synthesizing nitriles via iminyl radical fragmentations.

Using previous protocols employed in our lab, we synthesized compound 18, the hydrochloride salt of phenoxyamine. We then coupled the phenoxyamine salt 18 with target ketones to form desired oxime ether substrates. An example of the formation of an oxime ether from cyclobutanone is shown in Scheme 2-1.

\[
\text{O} \quad \text{Ph} - \text{O} \quad \text{NH}_2 \quad \text{HCl} \quad + \quad \text{Pyridine} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{N} - \text{OPh}
\]

**Scheme 2-1. Oxime ether formation**

After generating the oxime ether starting material, we attempted the fragmentation of 19, as shown in Scheme 2-2. Based on our previous work, trifluorotoluene was chosen in place of toluene as the solvent in order to eliminate the presence of a hydrogen atom donor. TEMPO was employed as a stable radical that could trap transient radical intermediate because of its historic success as a radical trap. Other ongoing experiments in our lab indicated that a concentration of
0.03 M would be beneficial to eliminate competition from intermolecular H-atom abstraction. Lowering the concentration further had no significant effect on the yield. The experiment displayed in Scheme 2-2 was conducted by Dr. Steven Castle.

![Scheme 2-2. Initial attempt at fragmentation](image)

Although yields were moderate, we were encouraged by the feasibility of this reaction. We propose a radical mechanism, as shown in Scheme 2-3. The microwave heat cleaves the N–O bond of 19 to form an iminyl radical. Subsequently, the C–C bond between the α-carbon and the iminyl carbon in intermediate A homolytically cleaves to form the nitrile and carbon radical present in intermediate B, in a fashion analogous to Norrish Type 1 photochemistry. TEMPO then traps the carbon radical to form product 29.

![Scheme 2-3. Proposed mechanism for iminyl radical fragmentation](image)

2.2 Perceived Reaction Floor

After initial success in the fragmentation reaction, we proceeded to determine the optimal reaction temperature. Table 2-1 shows varying success dependent on reaction temperature. Percent yield dramatically decreases when temperatures below 80 °C are used, as seen when comparing entries 3 and 4. This is the perceived reaction temperature floor, with the hypothesis that not enough energy enters the system when the temperature is below 80 °C to achieve the activation
energy needed for homolytic cleavage. It is unclear whether increasing reaction times at temperatures below 80 °C would increase yield. Future work may be done to assess the temperature floor in other solvents.

Table 2-1. Reaction temperature optimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>90 °</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>85 °</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>80 °</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>75 °</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>70 °</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Solvent Optimization

Further optimization of the reaction involved the solvent. Table 2-2 shows different solvents employed and the resulting yields.

Of particular interest was the trend that increasing solvent polarity corresponded with increasing percent yield. We hypothesize that solvent polarity increases yield in two ways: 1) it conducts the microwave irradiation better, ensuring proper heating of the solution, and 2) it stabilizes the iminyl radical transition state which results in preference of the radical pathway over possible byproduct pathways. Acetonitrile was selected as the preferred solvent for future reactions. Entries 3-6 were performed by Sia Im.
Table 2-2. Solvent optimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Trifluorotoluene</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dichloroethane</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>t-butylnitrobenzene, emimPF&lt;sub&gt;6&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CH&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;CN</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Trifluoroethanol</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Synthesis of various oxime ethers for fragmentation in the presence of TEMPO

In addition to optimizing the fragmentation, we began to explore the reaction scope. The first alteration we attempted was changing the scaffold for the oxime ether substrates used as starting material. The oxime ether substrates employed are shown in Table 2-3.

All oxime ethers were synthesized from commercially available ketones, with the exception of the ketone precursors for 23 and 26. These ketones were synthesized according to protocols reported in the literature (23<sup>5</sup> and 26<sup>6</sup>), and subsequently used to form their corresponding oxime ethers.

The fragmentation worked best with 4- and 5-membered rings, resulting in good to excellent yields. We attempted to expand the scope to 6-membered rings with limited success. We attempted to encourage fragmentation by increasing ring strain by incorporating two additional \( sp^2 \) carbons through a double bond in 26 to increase ring strain, but only moderate success was observed.
Table 2-3. Percent yield for fragmentation of various oxime ethers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxime Ether</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N^OPh</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N^OPh</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BocN</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>N≡CHOTEMP</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The low yield for the fragmentation of compound 26 indicates that ring size has a substantial effect on the yield. Further work on the project could look to optimize the reaction for 6-membered rings.

Compound 20 was fragmented by Sia Im. Compound 25 was fragmented by Amanda Garrity. Compounds 19, 22, and 23 were fragmented by Seth Bohman.

Initial work with the fragmentation of cyclic oxime ethers indicated possible success for methodology development. Optimization of the temperature and solvent delivered excellent yields when utilizing TEMPO as a radical trap. This optimization enabled us to fragment various cyclic oxime ethers with good to excellent yields.

2.5 References

CHAPTER 3. UTILIZING ALTERNATIVE RADICAL TRAPS FOR FRAGMENTATION

3.1 Radical Traps for C–C Bond Formation

Due to our successful fragmentation reactions involving TEMPO, we decided to explore other possible radical traps. In order to form a C–C bond, we determined that methyl 2-((phenylsulfonyl)methyl)acrylate (39, Figure 3-1) would be a good candidate for a radical trap.1

![Figure 3-1. Methyl 2-((phenylsulfonyl)methyl)acrylate](image)

Acrylate 39 was synthesized according to previously reported protocols1 by Dr. Steven Castle. After successful isolation of acrylate 39, it was tested in fragmentations with a variety of oxime ethers. The results are shown in Table 3-1.

Optimization studies by Seth Bohman included testing various temperatures, solvents, reaction times, and equivalents of acrylate 39. No significant change of yield was observed for variation of reaction times; the range of times tested fell between 10 and 30 minutes. Temperature also had little effect on yields unless the reaction was run below 80 °C, in which the yield dropped dramatically. Solvent had the biggest impact on yield with acetonitrile being the most effective. The yield fell when either 1 or 6 equivalents of acrylate 39 was used. The best yields were
Table 3-1. Yields obtained from use of acrylate 39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxime Ether</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=OPh</td>
<td>N≡CH(\text{Me})\text{C}\text{O}_{2}Me</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
obtained by using 3.5 equivalents of acrylate 39. The optimization and experiments in Table 3-1 were performed by Seth Bohman.

Another candidate we evaluated for a radical trap that would form C–C bonds is IBX-derivative 48, shown in Figure 3-2.

![Figure 3-2. Hypervalent iodide reagent used as a carbon radical trap](image)

Figure 3-2. Hypervalent iodide reagent used as a carbon radical trap

Hypervalent iodide reagent 48 was synthesized according to protocols reported in the literature.2 Interestingly, reagent 48 was not soluble in acetonitrile, so methanol and trifluoroethanol were tested as reaction solvents. Trifluoroethanol gave the best yields, as reported in Scheme 3-1.

![Scheme 3-1. Fragmentation with radical trap 48](image)

Scheme 3-1. Fragmentation with radical trap 48

Reagent 48 did not afford product when we tried to trap benzylic carbon radicals, as shown in Scheme 3-2. Both benzo-fused and linear chain benzylic carbon radicals failed to give any significant amount of product.
Scheme 3-2. Unsuccessful trapping of benzylic radicals by radical trap 48

3.2 Azide radical trap

In addition to C–C bond formation, we were interested in forming C–N bonds via iminyl radical fragmentations. We first targeted azide radical trap 54, as shown in Figure 3-3. Radical trap 54 was synthesized according to protocols found in the literature.3

Figure 3-3. Pyridinyl benzyl azide radical trap

After synthesis of radical trap 54, we attempted fragmentation with oxime ether 20, as shown in Scheme 3-3. No significant yield was obtained.

Scheme 3-3. Unsuccessful fragmentation with radical trap 54

We first suspected there was difficulty in isolating product 55 due to potential challenges in detection (resulting from both low molecular weight and lack of UV activity or staining properties). In response to this, we designed and synthesized oxime ether 23, which
advantageously increased the molecular weight and added a UV active moiety. When fragmenting oxime ether 23 with radical trap 54, we still did not observe product 56. Upon further analysis of the products, we did find strong evidence for product 57. We hypothesize that the carbon radical was trapped by the azide functional group, but a combination of heat and the basic pyridine present in radical trap 54 caused an elimination of the azide functional group and formed a conjugated π bond. These results are summarized in Scheme 3-4. The spectral data for 57 matched spectra reported in the literature. This reaction was also attempted using 2-iodopropane as a radical trap, and compound 57 was also identified in the crude 1H NMR.

Scheme 3-4. Formation of elimination product from fragmentation

Although product 57 was not our intended compound, we were encouraged because the formation of product 57 implied initial formation of product 56. Based on our moderate success with hypervalent iodide radical trap 48, we synthesized analogue 58 (Figure 3-4) in attempt to use a different nitrogen radical trap without introducing the pyridinal moiety of 54 to the reaction.

Figure 3-4. IBX derivative azide radical trap

Fragmentation with radical trap 58 by Seth Bohman again afforded the elimination product 57 in 48% yield, with trace amounts of product 56. Unsure of the reactivity of byproducts from
radical trap 58 (and their effect on product 56), we decided to attempt one more azide radical trap. We synthesized benzyl sulfonyl azide radical trap 59 shown in Figure 3-5.4

![Benzyl sulfonyl azide radical trap](image)

**Figure 3-5. Benzyl sulfonyl azide radical trap**

We decided to synthesize oxime ether 24, which provided the same advantages of a higher molecular weight and UV activity as oxime ether 23, but prevented the formation of an elimination product. The results of fragmentation of oxime ether 24 with radical trap 59 are shown in Scheme 3-5.

![Fragmentation with azide radical trap 59](image)

**Scheme 3-5. Fragmentation with azide radical trap 59**

The reaction resulted in a low yield, but a C–N bond was formed. A complex mixture was observed in the crude 1H NMR. Oxime ether 24 was not soluble in acetonitrile, so sufficient trifluorotoluene was added to solvate oxime ether 24. We also attempted fragmentation of oxime ether 24 with radical traps 58 and 54 without success. We are encouraged by the results we obtained in the formation of C–N bonds, and could consider further optimization as an option for future projects.

### 3.3 Radical Traps for C–X Bond Formation

In addition to C–O, C–C, and C–N bond formation, we also explored the possibility of C–X bond formation. We employed 2-iodopropane as a radical trap, as shown in Scheme 3-6.
Scheme 3-6. Fragmentation with 2-iodopropane as radical trap

Trifluorotoluene and acetonitrile were both tried as solvents, but observed yield was better in trifluorotoluene. One possible explanation for lower yields may be that 2-iodopropane is not as soluble in acetonitrile as it is in trifluorotoluene. Studies of the change in yield between trifluorotoluene and acetonitrile are underway now.

3.4 References


CHAPTER 4. OTHER ATTEMPTED NITROGEN–CENTERED RADICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

4.1 Aminyl radical 5-exo cyclization

Previous success in our lab with iminyl radical transformations (both fragmentations and cyclizations) incited curiosity about the feasibility of aminyl radical generation and transformation. We decided to pursue cyclization first, which entailed design of an aryloxyamine radical precursor and an alkene in the same molecule, poised for 5-exo cyclization. Another challenge included the formation of the C–N single bond present in the aryloxyamine. Previous efforts had been made in the lab to reduce oxime ethers to aryloxyamines, but harsh conditions cleaved the N–O bond instead of the C–N π bond.

An alternate synthetic route was designed to couple the Boc-protected phenoxyamine 62 with bromoalkene 63 via substitution chemistry. Cyclization precursor 64 was synthesized according to Scheme 4-1.

![Scheme 4-1. Coupling to produce designed cyclization precursor](image-url)
The synthesis of Boc-protected phenoxyamine 62 started from previously synthesized phenoxyamine 18. The Boc protection of compound 18 followed protocols found in the literature, and is outlined in Scheme 4-2. We decided to protect phenoxyamine 18 in efforts to increase the acidity of the N–H bond, enabling deprotonation and generation of a strong nucleophile for the subsequent substitution reaction. We also hoped to remove the Boc protecting group in the same pot as the microwave fragmentation, thereby minimizing the extra synthetic steps that protecting groups can introduce to a synthesis.

Scheme 4-2. Boc protection of phenoxyamine 16

The generation of bromoalkene 63 followed the strategy outlined in Scheme 4-3. Bromovaleric acid 65 was first converted to the corresponding acid chloride, and then diarylated to form compound 66, according to previously reported protocols. Elimination of the hydroxyl group in compound 66 resulted in bromoalkene 63.

Scheme 4-3. Formation of bromoalkene 63

After the synthesis and coupling of compounds 62 and 63, we produced cyclization precursor 64. Initial attempts to cyclize involved trying to first deprotect compound 64 and observe the free amine prior to cyclization. Compound 64 was subjected to deprotection conditions and after 26 hours an additional TLC spot formed. We were unable to detect the deprotected alkoxyamine via MS, and were wary of purification protocols that might lead to decomposition.
Hoping that the new TLC spot was the deprotected amine, we subjected the mixture to microwave irradiation as shown in Scheme 4-4.

Scheme 4-4. Attempted microwave aminyl radical cyclization

A mixture of products was formed, with seven distinct TLC spots. After attempted purification, no pyrrolidine was isolated from the mixture.

We next proceeded to attempt the deprotection and cyclization in the same reaction vessel. Based on literature reports that microwave heat can accelerate Boc deprotection,\(^4\) we subjected compound 64 to Boc deprotection conditions and cyclization conditions simultaneously under microwave irradiation. MS revealed total consumption of starting material 64, but twelve distinct TLC spots were formed, and further purification did not isolate pyrrolidine 65.

Further work could be done to encourage the success of aminyl radical cyclization. One option would be to troubleshoot the Boc deprotection, and demonstration \(\text{via} \, ^1\text{H} \, \text{NMR}\) the isolation of the deprotected amine prior to microwave fragmentation. This would eliminate the deprotection step as a possible source of error. A variation on this strategy could be to attempt the Boc deprotection after successful cyclization. Another option would be to try the cyclization in acetonitrile, and see if the solvent would select for the radical cyclization. An additional attempt could also be made to find alternative coupling conditions for phenoxyamine 16 and precursor 63, eliminating the need for protection altogether.
4.2 Iminyl radical 6-\textit{exo} cyclization

Another project focused on nitrogen–centered radicals is 6-\textit{exo} iminyl cyclization. There has been reported success with 5-\textit{exo} iminyl cyclization, and there have been examples of 6-membered cyclization delivering products with concomitant aromatization.\textsuperscript{5} We sought to promote 6-\textit{exo} iminyl cyclization without the driving force of aromatic products and instead form tetrahydropyridines. Our synthetic route to the cyclization substrates is shown in Scheme 4-5.

![Scheme 4-5. Formation of iminyl radical 6-\textit{exo} cyclization precursor](image)

Formation of compound 68 followed protocols found in the literature.\textsuperscript{6} Coupling of the phenoxyamine salt to ketone 68 is outlined in Chapter 2. After the synthesis of precursor 69, we attempted microwave cyclization as shown in Scheme 4-6.

![Scheme 4-6. Attempted 6-\textit{exo} cyclization of an iminyl radical](image)

After attempted cyclization, the crude $^1$H NMR indicated consumption of the starting material, but did not show anticipated product peaks in any significant quantity. TLC analysis revealed nine distinct UV active spots. Purification did not yield any significant results.

Further work could be done to encourage 6-\textit{exo} cyclization. Precursor design could equip phenyl or electron-withdrawing groups on the alkene to stabilize the formation of the carbon
radical, thereby driving the reaction towards cyclization. The reaction could also be attempted in acetonitrile. Variations could be tested for time and temperature of microwave irradiation.

Although two attempted nitrogen-centered radical cyclizations did not succeed, there are reasonable efforts that could be made to encourage favorable reaction results for both aminyl 5-
endo cyclization and iminyl 6-endo cyclization. The consumption of the starting material in both cases indicates that some type of transformation of the starting material is indeed occurring. The ideas listed in this chapter are simple alterations that could encourage further success with these projects.

4.3 References


CHAPTER 5. APPLICATIONS, FUTURE WORK, AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Application of iminyl radical fragmentation to the ring distortion strategy

The applications of iminyl radical chemistry we are focusing on relate to the successful iminyl radical fragmentation reactions. One exciting prospect is the application of iminyl radical fragmentation to the ring distortion strategy proposed by Hergenrother. This strategy employs derivatization of complex natural products through transformations to the carbon ring structure scaffold that take on average three chemical steps. This enables facile production of diverse and complex compounds that can be used in screening collections. Hergenrother demonstrated the potency of the ring distortion strategy with the transformation of gibberellic acid, adrenosterone, and quinine to create numerous analogues with reduced effort. The distortion of adrenosterone is most applicable to the iminyl radical fragmentation, with five of the nine derivatizations involving the fragmentation of a five membered cyclic ketone.

We see the ability to apply our developed iminyl radical fragmentation methodology to the same strategy, with the added advantage of using milder conditions. Instead of harsh oxidizing agents or strong acids used by Hergenrother, we would employ the use of microwave irradiation and added radical traps. A great degree of variation can be achieved simply by choosing a different radical trap, with the opportunity to further permutate created compounds through the subsequent
transformation of the nitrile. Having these two points of easy alteration allows for exponential growth of transformations with each new reaction applied to the compound.

We decided to apply the ring distortion strategy to estrone, an economic and commercially available starting material. Concordia Lo conducted the estrone ring distortion experiments. We first synthesized the oxime ether, as shown in Scheme 5-1. Coupling estrone 71 with phenoxyamine salt 16 gave oxime ether 72.

\[
\text{HO} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{pyridine} \quad 58\% \quad \text{HO} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{OPh} \quad + \quad \text{Ph} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{NH}_2 \quad \text{HCl}.
\]

\[\text{1871 72}\]

Scheme 5-1. Formation of estrone oxime ether

After successful formation of oxime ether 72, we proceeded to fragment it according to our previously optimized conditions. The first radical trap used was TEMPO, as shown in Scheme 5-2. Oxime ether 72 was fragmented with good yields in a 3:1 ratio of trifluoroethanol and trifluorotoluene.

\[
\text{HO} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{OPh} \quad \text{TEMPO} \quad \text{trifluoroethanol/} \quad \text{trifluorotoluene} \quad \text{microwave heat} \quad 90 \, ^\circ\text{C}, 10 \, \text{min} \quad 74\% \quad \text{HO} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{TEMP} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{cN}.
\]

Scheme 5-2. Fragmentation of estrone oxime ether 72 with TEMPO

Another estrone derivative was synthesized with the use of azide radical trap 54. The final product contains a \(\pi\) bond, presumably formed from elimination of the azide functional group that would trap the nascent carbon radical during the fragmentation reaction. The results of this reaction are summarized in Scheme 5-3.
Scheme 5-3. Formation of estrone derivative 74 via elimination of trapped azide

Although this reaction has a less than ideal yield, we are currently working on optimizing the formation of compound 74. Scheme 5-3 represents the first attempt of using radical trap 53, and optimized purification conditions could feasibly give a higher yield.

In addition to the optimization of the formation of compound 74, there are efforts underway to fragment estrone oxime ether 72 with acrylate radical trap (insert number), CBrCl3, and CCl4. We also attempted trapping with 2-iodopropane, but hypothesize that the reaction did not work because estrone oxime ether 72 fragments to produce a tertiary carbon radical. Trapping with 2-iodopropane forms a secondary carbon radical, which would be less thermodynamically stable than the tertiary carbon radical, and would not encourage reaction procession.

5.2 Stereochemistry

Future work in the iminyl radical fragmentation project could involve investigation of the stereoselectivity of the reaction. With the formation of a carbon radical and the addition of a radical trap, there is potential in the reaction for the formation of a new stereocenter. Many radical reactions proceed with high stereoselectivity, and further work is necessary to determine stereoselectivity of the iminyl radical fragmentation. One simple experiment to determine if any stereoselectivity even exists would be the fragmentation a starting material with a stereocenter removed from the site of fragmentation. If the resulting product is a mixture of diastereomers, this
would indicate that the reaction is not stereoselective. If the resulting product is a single diastereomer, this would indicate the reaction is stereoselective.

If the reaction is stereoselective, this could have major potency for introduction of stereocenters into straight chain products. Although generating a stereocenter on straight chain compounds is difficult, significant work has been accomplished in the generation of stereocenters through enolate, aldol, and conjugate addition chemistry on cyclic compounds. In the case that the radical trapping is stereoselective, iminyl radical fragmentation could be a design strategy to produce a straight chain stereocenter. The fragmentation would also need to be regioselective in order for this to be a feasible application. In the case of asymmetric alpha carbons (which are probable through aldol and enolate chemistry), we have previously observed regioselectivity. However, we have observed regioselectivity that is selective for cleaving the more hindered side, which has the potential to destroy the stereocenter. This remains a barrier that would need to be tested and addressed if installation of stereocenters was pursued. If the alpha carbons have the same number of substituents (which is probable through conjugate addition chemistry), then further studies would have to be done to observe regioselectivity of the fragmentation.

5.3 Six Membered Ring Fragmentation

Another area of future work includes the fragmentation of six membered rings. As noted in Chapter 2, yields drop dramatically when fragmenting six membered rings via iminyl radical fragmentation. We would like to optimize this reaction in order to be able to apply it to a large number of natural products that contain six membered cyclic ketones.

We suspect the transformation between intermediates A and B is reversible, as outlined in Scheme 5-4. In the case of four and five membered rings, we hypothesize that the straight chain intermediate is more stable due to the ring strain present in the cyclic intermediate, which drives
the reaction to completion. While fragmenting six membered rings, cyclic ketone was observed in the crude reaction mixture, indicating a possibility of imine formation and subsequent hydrolysis during workup to create the ketone. This could be explained if the cyclic intermediate was more stable than the straight chain intermediate, which would remove the driving force from the reaction.

![Scheme 5-4](image)

**Scheme 5-4. Possible reversible step during iminyl radical fragmentation**

In order to make conditions more favorable for six membered ring fragmentation, we could try other methods of incorporating ring strain into the starting materials. We could also attempt fragmentation in acetonitrile, which has proved more effective than trifluorotoluene for many fragmentation reactions.

**5.4 Conclusion**

In summary, we have optimized an efficient method to functionalize cyclic oxime ethers derived from simple ketone precursors. We install two functional groups in the place of one. The method proceeds via an iminyl radical generated by microwave irradiation. Depending on the choice of radical trap, a variety of bond types can be installed. C–O bonds and C–C bonds can be formed in excellent yields, while C–I and C–N bonds can be formed in poor to moderate yields. Besides the functional group installed through the radical trap, a nitrile is also formed. Additional work can be done to fragment six membered rings and determine stereoselectivity of the reaction. Work is underway on a practical application to ring distortion strategy. Iminyl radical fragmentation displays potency as a viable and strategic method in organic synthesis.
5.5 References


CHAPTER 6: EXPERIMENTAL AND SPECTROSCOPIC DATA

6.1 General Methods

All dry solvents were dried by passage through a dry solvent system employing activated alumina cylinders. Flash chromatography was carried out using 230 mesh silica gel. $^1$H NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian 500 MHz spectrometer, with chloroform (7.27 ppm) as internal reference. Signals are reported as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quin (quintet), dd (doublet of doublets), dt (doublet of triplets), m (multiplet). Coupling constants are reported in hertz (Hz). $^{13}$C NMR spectra were obtained on Varian 125 MHz, with chloroform (77.23 ppm) as internal reference. Infrared spectra were obtained on an FT-IR spectrometer. Mass spectral data were obtained using ESI mass spectrometry.

6.2 Experimental Details

Cyclobutanone O-phenyl oxime (19). An oven dried reaction vessel with stir bar was charged with cyclobutanone (27.6 mg, 0.310 mmol, 1 equiv), pyridine (1.25 ml), and phenoxyammonium chloride (49.7 mg, 0.341 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The vessel was sealed under argon atmosphere, and stirred at room temperature overnight. Flash chromatography (1-3% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 19 (35 mg, 0.217 mmol, 70%) as a colorless oil: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz)
δ7.33-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, \(J = 8.2\) Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t, \(J = 7.4\) Hz, 1H), 3.12 (t, \(J = 8.5\) Hz, 2H), 3.07 (t, \(J = 7.9\) Hz, 2H), 2.14-2.06 (m, 2H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3, 125\) MHz) δ 162.9, 159.6, 129.2, 129.2, 121.7, 114.3, 114.3, 31.6, 31.5, 14.6; IR (film) \(\nu_{\text{max}}\) 2964, 1685, 1560, 964; HRMS (ESI) \(m/z\) 162.0917 (MH\(^+\), C\(_{10}\)H\(_{11}\)NOH\(^+\) requires 162.0913).

**Cyclopentanone O-phenyl oxime (20).** In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, cyclopentanone (33.7 mg, 0.401 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (64.2 mg, 0.440 mmol, 1.1 equiv) afforded 20 (68.5 mg, 0.357 mmol, 89%): \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3, 500\) MHz) δ7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, \(J = 7.9\) Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, \(J = 7.5\) Hz, 1H), 2.65 (t, \(J = 6.8\) Hz, 2H), 2.53 (t, \(J = 6.7\) Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.79 (m, 4H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3, 125\) MHz) δ 170.3, 159.7, 129.2, 129.2, 121.7, 114.6, 114.5, 31.1, 28.4, 25.2, 24.7; IR (film) \(\nu_{\text{max}}\) 3039, 2964, 2873, 1659, 1594, 958; HRMS (ESI) \(m/z\) 176.1069 (MH\(^+\), C\(_{11}\)H\(_{13}\)NOH\(^+\) requires 176.1070).

**2-Methylcyclopentan-1-one O-phenyl oxime (21).** In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, 2-methylcyclopentanone (32.0 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (47.5 mg, 0.363 mmol, 1.1 equiv) afforded 21 (51.2 mg, 0.274 mmol, 83%) that was a mixture of diastereomers: \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3, 500\) MHz, major diastereomer) δ 7.31 (t, \(J = 7.8\) Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, \(J = 8.6\) Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, \(J = 7.3\) Hz, 1H), 2.76-2.67 (m, 2H), 2.66-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.02 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.67 (m, 1H), 1.45-1.36 (m, 1H), 1.29 (d, \(J = 7.4\) Hz, 3H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3, 125\) MHz) δ 173.2, 172.5, 159.8, 159.7, 129.2, 121.5, 114.5, 34.4, 28.3, 22.6, 17.2,
17.1; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 3039, 2962, 2872, 1659, 1596, 936; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 190.1239 (MH$^+$, C$_{12}$H$_{15}$NOH$^+$ requires 190.1226).

![Structure of 2,2-Dimethylcyclopentan-1-one O-phenyl oxime](image)

**2,2-Dimethylcyclopentan-1-one O-phenyl oxime (22).** In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, 2,2-dimethylcyclopentanone (31.2 mg, 0.293 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (52.7 mg, 0.362 mmol, 1.1 equiv) afforded 22 (44.9 mg, 0.231 mmol, 79%) as a mixture of diastereomers: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 7.32-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 1H), 2.71 and 2.57 (2t, $J = 7.5$ and 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.86-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.42 and 1.26 (2s, 6H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz, only major stereoisomer reported) $\delta$ 174.7, 159.8, 129.2 (2C), 121.5 (2C), 114.4, 42.7, 41.0, 27.9, 26.6, 20.9 (2C); IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 3284, 2960, 1694.2, 1651, 1591, 1489, 927; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 204.1385 (MH$^+$, C$_{13}$H$_{17}$NOH$^+$ requires 204.1383).

![Structure of 2-Phenylcyclopentan-1-one O-phenyl oxime](image)

**2-Phenylcyclopentan-1-one O-phenyl oxime (23).** In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, 2-phenylcyclopentanone (395.5 mg, 2.51 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (409.1 mg, 2.76 mmol, 1.1 equiv) afforded 23 (574.5 mg, 2.32 mmol, 93%) as a mixture of diastereomers: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 7.38-7.17 (m, 8H), 7.11-7.07 (m, 1 H), 6.98-6.91 (m, 1H), 4.26 and 3.93 (2t, $J = 7.7$ and 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.99-2.91 and 2.79-2.70 (2m, 2H), 2.41-2.35 and 2.35-2.28 (2m, 1H), 2.05-1.94 and 1.86-1.78 (2m, 1H), 1.96-1.87 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) $\delta$ 170.9, 159.7, 141.4, 129.1, 128.4, 128.0, 127.3, 121.7, 114.5, 35.0, 32.0,
29.0, 22.8; IR (film) \( \nu_{\text{max}} \) 2961, 1596, 1489, 1231, 965.3; HRMS (ESI) \( m/z \) 252.1378 (MH\(^+\), C\(_{17}\)H\(_{17}\)NOH\(^+\) requires 252.1383).

![1,3-Dihydro-2H-inden-2-one O-phenyl oxime (24)](image)

1,3-Dihydro-2H-inden-2-one O-phenyl oxime (24). In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, 2-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-one (149.9 mg, 1.13 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (177.2 mg, 1.25 mmol, 1.1 equiv) afforded 24 (197.0 mg, 0.878 mmol, 78%) as a light brown solid: \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 500 MHz) \( \delta \) 7.37-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, \( J = 8.3 \) Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, \( J = 7.5 \) Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 3.97 (s, 2H); \(^13\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 125 MHz) \( \delta \) 165.7, 159.5 (2C), 138.8 (2C), 129.3, 127.3, 127.2, 125.1, 124.8, 122.1 (2C), 114.6, 36.6, 35.3; IR (film) \( \nu_{\text{max}} \) 2933, 1588, 1479, 969; HRMS (ESI) \( m/z \) 224.1071 (MH\(^+\), C\(_{15}\)H\(_{13}\)NOH\(^+\) requires 224.1070).

![Tert-butyl 3-(phenoxyimino)azetidine-1-carboxylate (25)](image)

Tert-butyl 3-(phenoxyimino)azetidine-1-carboxylate (25). In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, tert-butyl 3-oxoazetidine-1-carboxylate (69.4 mg, 0.375 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (68.4 mg, 0.412 mmol, 1.1 equiv) afforded 25 (62.5 mg, 0.240 mmol, 64%): \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 500 MHz) \( \delta \) 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, \( J = 7.04 \) Hz, 1H), 4.79 (t, \( J = 3.1 \) Hz, 2H), 4.75 (t, \( J = 3.1 \) Hz, 2H), 1.50 (s, 9H); \(^13\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 125 MHz) \( \delta \) 159.0, 156.1, 151.9, 129.4 (2C), 122.6, 114.3 (2C), 80.8 (2C), 28.3 (3C); IR (film) \( \nu_{\text{max}} \) 3504, 2977, 1699, 1592, 1489, 1456, 946; HRMS (ESI) \( m/z \) 263.1387 (MH\(^+\), C\(_{14}\)H\(_{18}\)N\(_2\)O\(_2\)H\(^+\) requires 263.1390).
6-Methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one O-phenyl oxime (26). In a procedure similar to the formation of 19, 6-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (77.2 mg, 0.70 mmol, 1 equiv) and phenoxyammonium chloride (130.0 mg, 0.875 mmol, 1 equiv) afforded 26 (96.0 mg, 0.476 mmol, 68%) as a mixture of 3:1 diastereomers: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 7.35-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.04-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.92 and 6.22-6.18 (dt, $J$ = 5.1, and m, 1H), 6.41 and 6.35-6.31 (dt, $J$ = 5.2, and m, 1H), 3.65-3.57 and 2.74-2.66 (m, m, 1H), 2.40-2.26 and 2.22-2.15 (m, m, 3H), 1.99-1.92 and 1.92-1.85 (m, m, 1H), 1.74-1.68 and 1.68-1.66 (m, m, 1H), 1.29 and 1.21 (d, $J$ = 6.8 Hz and d, $J$ = 7.3 Hz, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz, only reporting data for major diastereomer) $\delta$ 162.5, 159.1, 140.3, 137.2, 129.2, 122.9, 121.7, 117.1, 114.6, 33.0, 29.9, 24.5, 17.4; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 3036, 2964, 2931, 1628, 1591, 1489, 955; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 202.1221 (MH$^+$, C$_{13}$H$_{15}$NOH$^+$ requires 202.1226).

4-((2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)butanenitrile (29). An oven dried reaction vessel was charged with compound 19 (16.0 mg, 0.099 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (33.0 mg, 0.20 mmol, 2 equiv), and trifluorotoluene (3.3 ml) and sealed under an argon atmosphere. The vessel was subjected to microwave irradiation (300 W) at 90 °C for 10 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (3-15% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 29 (8.4 mg, 0.084 mmol, 85%) as a yellow oil: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 3.89 (t, $J$=5.89 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (t, $J$=7.23 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (quin, $J$=6.57 Hz, 2H), 1.48-1.44 (m, 4H), 1.18-1.13 (s, 6H), 1.13-1.08 (s, 6H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) $\delta$ 119.7, 73.6, 59.8, 39.6 (4C), 33.1 (2C), 25.1, 20.1, 17.1, 14.5; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 2930, 2230, 1615, 1573; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 204.1393 (MH$^+$, C$_{13}$H$_{24}$N$_2$OH$^+$ requires 204.1383).
5-((2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)pentanenitrile (30). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 20 (6.2 mg, 0.032 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (8.7 mg, 0.049 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.1 mL) afforded 30 (7.2 mg, 0.030 mmol, 94%): \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 500 MHz) \(\delta\) 3.78 (t, \(J = 5.9\) Hz, 2H), 2.42 (t, \(J = 7.1\) Hz, 2H), 2.18 (s, 2H), 1.84-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.15 (s, 6H), 1.09 (s, 6H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 125 MHz) \(\delta\) 119.8, 75.6, 59.7, 39.6 (4C), 33.1, 30.1, 27.9, 23.0, 20.1, 17.4, 17.1; IR (film) \(\nu_{\text{max}}\) 2933, 2246, 1724, 1454; HRMS (ESI) \(m/z\) 239.2122 (MH\(^+\), \(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_{2}\text{OH}\) requires 239.2118).

5-((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)hexanenitrile (31). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 21 (22.8 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (28.2 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (5 mL) afforded 31 (20.3 mg, 0.080 mmol, 67%) as a 20:1 mixture of regioisomers: \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 500 MHz) \(\delta\) 3.95 (sextet, \(J = 5.81\) Hz, 1H), 2.40 (t, \(J = 7.09\) Hz, 2H), 1.84-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.30 (m, 2H) 1.19 (d, \(J = 6.43\) Hz, 3H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 6H), 1.07 (s, 3H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 125 MHz) \(\delta\) 119.9, 40.3, 40.2, 39.6, 35.8 (2C), 34.4, 21.9, 20.5, 19.7 (2C), 17.6 (2C), 17.3 (2C); IR (film) \(\nu_{\text{max}}\) 3414, 2933, 2246, 1606, 1595; HRMS (ESI) \(m/z\) 253.2287 (MH\(^+\), \(\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_{2}\text{OH}\) requires 253.2274).

5-Methyl-5-((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)hexanenitrile (32). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 22 (14.9 mg, 0.073 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (22.9 mg, 0.147 mmol, 2 equiv), and acetonitrile (2.5 mL) afforded 32 (5.9 mg, 0.059 mmol, 81%): \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3\), 500 MHz) \(\delta\) 2.39 (t, \(J = 7.2\) Hz, 2H), 1.95-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.43
(m, 4H), 1.31 (s, 6H), 1.30-1.27 (m, 2H) 1.14 (s, 6H), 1.10 (s, 6H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ 119.9, 78.0, 59.2, 42.8 (2C), 40.8 (2C), 34.8 (2C), 27.0 (2C) 20.7 (2C), 20.4, 17.8, 17.1; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 2972, 2931, 2246, 1468; HRMS (ESI) m/z 267.2434 (MH$^+$, C$_{16}$H$_{30}$N$_2$OH$^+$ requires 267.2431).

5-Phenyl-5-((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)pentanenitrile (33). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 23 (8.9 mg, 0.035 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (11.1 mg, 0.708 mmol, 2 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.2 mL) afforded 33 (10.3 mg, 0.033 mmol, 92%): $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) δ 7.35-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 3H) 4.68-4.63 (m, 1H), 2.24 (t, $J = 7.24$, 2H) 2.21-2.15 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.48 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.38-1.29 (m, 2H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.59 (s, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ 142.7, 128.1 (2C), 127.5 (2C), 127.4, 119.6, 86.3, 40.4 (4C), 34.9, 34.0 (2C), 21.3 (2C), 17.2 (2C), 17.1; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 2932, 2247, 1494, 1455; HRMS (ESI) m/z 315.2431 (MH$^+$, C$_{20}$H$_{30}$N$_2$OH$^+$ requires 315.2431).

2-(2-((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)methyl)phenyl)acetonitrile (34). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 24 (16.3 mg, 0.073 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (28.5 mg, 0.146 mmol, 2 equiv), and acetonitrile (2.4 mL) and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (0.6 mL) afforded 34 (15.6 mg, 0.054 mmol, 75%): $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) δ 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.33 (m, 2H), 4.88 (s, 2H) 3.88 (s, 2H), 1.55-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.42-1.35 (m, 2H), 1.25 (s, 6 H), 1.14 (s, 6H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ 136.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 117.8, 110.0, 60.0, 39.7
(2C) 33.2 (2C), 21.5 (2C), 20.3 (2C), 17.1; IR (film) ν\text{max} 2931, 2250, 1454, 1374; HRMS (ESI) m/z 287.2111 (MH\textsuperscript+), C\textsubscript{13}H\textsubscript{17}NOH\textsuperscript+ requires 287.2118.

Tert-butyl (cyanomethyl)(((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)methyl)carbamate (35). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 25 (17.6 mg, 0.067 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (20.3 mg, 0.134 mmol, 2 equiv), and acetonitrile (2.4 mL) afforded 35 (9.5 mg, 0.030 mmol, 45%): \textsuperscript{1}H NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}, 500 MHz) δ 4.97-4.93 (m, 2H), 4.30 and 4.18 (2s, 2H), 1.55-1.49 (m, 9H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 2H) 1.49-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.19 (s, 6H), 1.13 (s, 6H); \textsuperscript{13}C NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}, 125 MHz) δ 153.9, 116.1, 82.4 and 82.0, 81.5, 60.0 (2C), 39.7 (3C), 35.7, 34.8, 33.1, 29.7, 28.2, 20.0 (2C), 17.0; IR (film) ν\text{max} 2977, 2933, 2247, 1716, 1473; HRMS: not recorded yet.

(Z)-6-((2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)hept-2-enenitrile (36). In a procedure similar to the formation of 29, compound 26 (27.2 mg, 0.135 mmol, 1 equiv), TEMPO (43.7 mg, 0.270 mmol, 2 equiv), and acetonitrile (4.5 mL) afforded 36 (9.6 mg, 0.036 mmol, 27%): \textsuperscript{1}H NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}, 500 MHz) δ 6.68-6.61 (m, 1H), 5.41 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.09-4.02 (m, 1H), 2.67-2.60 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.85 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.66 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.32 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (s, 12H); \textsuperscript{13}C NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}, 125 MHz) δ 155.7, 116.2, 99.5, 77.4, 40.4 (2C), 34.9, 34.6, 28.6 (2C), 20.7, 19.8, 17.5 (4C); IR (film) ν\text{max} 2973, 2933, 2219, 1621, 1466; HRMS (ESI) m/z 265.2284 (MH\textsuperscript+), C\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{28}NO\textsubscript{2}H\textsuperscript+ requires 265.2274.
Methyl 6-cyano-2-methylenehexanoate (40). An oven dried reaction vessel was charged with compound 19 (5.5 mg, 0.034 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (28.7 mg, 0.120 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.1 ml) and sealed under an argon atmosphere. The vessel was subjected to microwave irradiation (300 W) at 90 °C for 10 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (3-15% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 40 (4.0 mg, 0.024 mmol, 73%) as a yellow oil: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 6.19 (s, 1H), 5.58, (d, $J = 1.26$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.38 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.36, (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.74-1.61 (m, 4H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) $\delta$ 167.4, 139.6, 125.5, 119.6, 51.9, 31.1, 27.5, 24.9, 17.0; IR (film) $\nu$$_{max}$ 2952, 2247, 1720, 1631, 1439; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 168.1017 (MH$^+$, C$_9$H$_{13}$NO$_2$H$^+$ requires 168.1019).

![Methyl 6-cyano-2-methylenehexanoate](image)

Methyl 7-cyano-2-methyleneheptanoate (41). In a procedure similar to the formation of 37, compound 20 (10.3 mg, 0.059 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (51.6 mg, 0.206 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (2 mL) afforded 41 (9.1 mg, 0.050 mmol, 85%): $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 6.17 (s, 1H), 5.56 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.33 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.70 (quin, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.56-1.47 (m, 4H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) $\delta$ 167.4, 139.6, 125.5, 119.7, 51.8, 31.6, 28.2, 27.6, 25.1, 17.1; IR (film) $\nu$$_{max}$ 2949, 2864, 2245, 1720, 1631, 1439; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 182.1178 (MH$^+$, C$_{10}$H$_{15}$NO$_2$H$^+$ requires 182.1176).

![Methyl 7-cyano-2-methyleneheptanoate](image)

Methyl 7-cyano-4-methyl-2-methyleneheptanoate (42). In a procedure similar to the formation of 37, compound 21 (10.2 mg, 0.054 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (46.6 mg, 0.189 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.8 mL) afforded 42 (8.8 mg, 0.045 mmol, 84%): $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500
MHz) δ 6.20 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.54 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.38-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.33 (m, 2H) 2.11-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.82-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.44 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.89 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); 13C NMR (CDCl3, 125 MHz) δ 167.7, 138.9, 126.5, 119.7, 51.9, 39.5, 35.6, 31.2, 23.0, 19.1, 17.3; IR (film) νmax 2955, 2245, 1720, 1630, 1440; HRMS (ESI) m/z 196.1337 (MH+, C11H17NO2H+ requires 196.1332).

Methyl 7-cyano-4,4-dimethyl-2-methyleneheptanoate (43). In a procedure similar to the formation of 37, compound 22 (14.8 mg, 0.073 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (61.4 mg, 0.255 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (2.4 mL) afforded 43 (2.9 mg, 0.014 mmol, 19%).: 1H NMR (CDCl3, 500 MHz) δ 6.22 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.30 (m, 4H), 1.72-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.30 (m, 2H), 0.86 (s, 6H); 13C NMR (CDCl3, 125 MHz) δ 168.5, 138.0, 127.8, 119.7, 52.0, 42.5, 41.0, 33.8, 26.3 (2C), 20.5, 17.9; IR (film) νmax 2957, 2873, 2245, 1722, 1626, 1439; HRMS (ESI) m/z 210.1498 (MH+, C12H19NO2H+ requires 210.1489).

Methyl 7-cyano-2-methylene-4-phenylheptanoate (44). In a procedure similar to the formation of 37, compound 23 (9.9 mg, 0.039 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (36.5 mg, 0.137 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.3 mL) afforded 44 (5.9 mg, 0.023 mmol, 59%).: 1H NMR (CDCl3, 500 MHz) δ 7.32-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.05 (d, J = 1.3Hz, 1H), 5.31 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.87-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.58-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.27 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.68 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.43 (m, 2H); 13C NMR (CDCl3, 125 MHz) δ 167.5, 143.4, 138.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1 (2C), 119.5, 110.0, 51.8, 44.3, 39.7,
34.7, 23.4, 17.1; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 2950, 2245, 1717, 1630, 1453; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 258.1499 (MH$^+$, C$_{16}$H$_{19}$NO$_2$H$^+$ requires 258.1489).

![](image1.png)

**Methyl 4-(2-(cyanomethyl)phenyl)-2-methylenebutanoate (45).** In a procedure similar to the formation of 37, compound 24 (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (42.0 mg, 0.175 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.7 mL) afforded 45 (6.7 mg, 0.029 mmol, 58%).: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) $\delta$ 7.41 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.22 (m, 3H), 6.21 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.62 (d, $J = 12$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 5H), 2.83-2.77 (m, 2H), 2.60-2.54 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) $\delta$ 167.4, 139.3 (2C), 129.9, 129.1, 128.5, 128.2, 127.1, 126.2, 118.0, 52.0, 33.5, 32.4, 21.2; IR (film) $\nu_{\text{max}}$ 2953, 2248, 1717, 1631, 1492, 1441; HRMS (ESI) $m/z$ 230.1176 (MH$^+$, C$_{14}$H$_{15}$NO$_2$H$^+$ requires 230.1176).

![](image2.png)

**Methyl 4-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)(cyanomethyl)amino)-2-methylenebutanoate (46).** In a procedure similar to the formation of 25, compound 20 (11.6 mg, 0.044 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 39 (36.2 mg, 0.150 mmol, 3.4 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.48 mL) afforded 46 (9.5 mg, 0.035 mmol, 80%) as a mixture of rotamers: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz not recorded yet; $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) $\delta$ not recorded yet; IR not recorded yet; HRMS not recorded yet.

![](image3.png)
Methyl (Z)-8-cyano-4-methyl-2-methyleneoct-7-enoate (47). In a procedure similar to the formation of 37, compound 47 (mg, mmol, equiv), radical trap 39 (mg, mmol, equiv), and acetonitrile (mL) afforded 26 (mg, mmol, %): $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) δ not recorded yet; $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ not recorded yet; IR not recorded yet; HRMS not recorded yet.

7-(Triisopropylsilyl)hept-6-yenitrile (48). An oven dried reaction vessel was charged with compound 19 (11.8 mg, 0.0673 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 48 (100.1 mg, 0.2356 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and trifluoroethanol (2.25 ml) and sealed under an argon atmosphere. The vessel was subjected to microwave irradiation (300 W) at 90 °C for 20 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (3-15% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 48 (9.5 mg, 0.036 mmol, 54%) as a yellow oil: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) δ 2.41 (t, $J = 7.3$, 2H), 2.34 (t, $J = 6.8$, 2H), 1.84 (quin, $J = 7.9$, 2H), 1.70 (quin, $J = 7.5$, 2H), 1.07 (d, $J = 4.8$, 18H), 1.05-1.00 (m, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ 129.7, 119.4, 107.2, 81.5, 77.5, 27.4, 24.3, 19.0, 18.6 (6C), 16.7, 11.2; IR not recorded yet; HRMS not recorded yet.

(E)-5-Phenylpent-4-enenitrile (57). An oven dried reaction vessel was charged with compound 23 (13.4 mg, 0.053 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 54 (54.5 mg, 0.187 mmol, 3.5 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.8 ml) and methanol (0.9 ml) and sealed under an argon atmosphere. The vessel was subjected to microwave irradiation (300 W) at 90 °C for 10 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (3-15% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 57 (4 mg, 0.025 mmol, 48%) as a yellow oil. Spectra are identical to reported literature values.
2-(2-(azidomethyl)phenyl)acetonitrile (60). An oven dried reaction vessel was charged with compound 24 (15.1 mg, 0.067 mmol, 1 equiv), radical trap 59 (35.6 mg, 0.202 mmol, 3 equiv), and trifluorotoluene (1.75 ml) and acetonitrile (0.50 ml) and sealed under an argon atmosphere. The vessel was subjected to microwave irradiation (300 W) at 100 °C for 20 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (3-15% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 29 (2.9 mg, 0.017 mmol, 25%) as a yellow oil: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) δ not recorded yet; $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ not recorded yet; IR not recorded yet; HRMS not recorded yet.

5-iodopentanenitrile (61). An oven dried reaction vessel was charged with compound 19 (mg, mmol, equiv), 2-iodopropane (mg, mmol, equiv), and acetonitrile (ml) and sealed under an argon atmosphere. The vessel was subjected to microwave irradiation (300 W) at 90 °C for 10 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (3-15% EtOAc in hexanes gradient elution) afforded 61 (mg, mmol, %) as a yellow oil: $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$, 500 MHz) δ not recorded yet; $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$, 125 MHz) δ not recorded yet; IR not recorded yet; HRMS not recorded yet.
6.3 Selected NMR Spectra

![NMR Spectra](image)

(500 MHz, CDCl₃)

\[19\]
$^{500\text{ MHz, CDCl}_3}$

![Diagram of molecule]
(500 MHz, CDCl₃)
(125 MHz, CDCl₃)
(500 MHz, CDCl₃)
(500 MHz, CDCl₃)
(125 MHz, CDCl₃)
$^{125}\text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3$
$^{29}$N OTEMP (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
(125 MHz, CDCl₃)

OTEMP

N

29
63
N
OTEMP

(500 MHz, CDCl₃)

30

p
p

OTEMP

It appears to be a 1H NMR spectrum of a compound with a structural formula that includes a terminal alkyne. The spectrum is labeled with chemical shifts in ppm.
$^{31}$ (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

N

OTEMP
(125 MHz, CDCl₃)
$^{32}$N\textsubscript{TEMP} (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
$33$ (125 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
TEMPO

(500 MHz, CDCl₃)
TEMPO
(125 MHz, CDCl₃)

34

TEMPO

(125 MHz, CDCl₃)
$^{1}J_{NBOC} = 35$ (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$)
N

OTEMP

(500 MHz, CDCl3)
N(OTEMP) (125 MHz, CDCl₃)
(500 MHz, CDCl₃)
$^{1}H$ NMR Spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$)

Chemical Structure:

![Chemical Structure Image]
$^{13}C$ NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$) of the compound with the following structure:

![Chemical Structure Image]
(500 MHz, CDCl₃)
(125 MHz, CDCl₃)
N
48
(TIPS)
(125 MHz, CDCl$_3$)