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Liquid Sulfur Dioxide – Beneficial Solvent for Alkyne Transformations via Vinyl Carbenium Ion Intermediate

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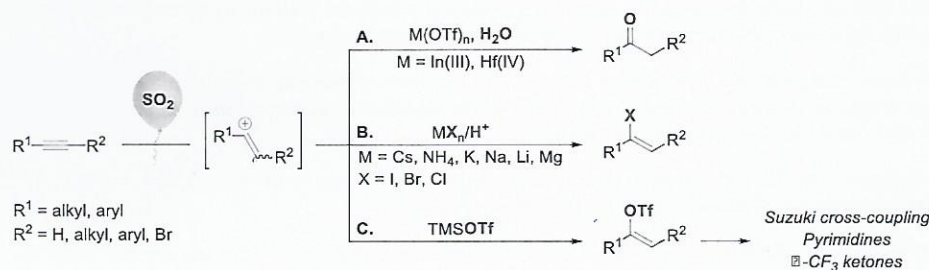
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Sulfur dioxide is not only a useful building block in a synthetic organic chemistry, but due to its high polarity and Lewis acid properties liquid SO₂ can be used as a strongly ionizing solvent, especially, for organic transformations that involve ionic intermediates.¹ Herein we report application of liquid SO₂ as a reaction media for various alkyne transformations via vinyl carbenium ion intermediate that is quenched with nucleophiles like water, halide and triflate.²

Firstly, a combination of In(OTf)₃ or Hf(OTf)₄ as a catalyst and liquid SO₂ as a solvent allowed us to develop effective method for the hydration of electron-rich terminal and internal aryl alkynes without the direct addition of Brønsted acid (Scheme 1, A.). Catalyst loading can be lowered to less than 1 mol% for alkynes containing strong electron-donating groups. Besides, Hf(OTf)₄ has found an application in this chemical transformation for the first time.

Secondly, by employing simple reagent systems like CsI, KI, NaI, LiBr, or LiCl/H₂O as well as solo reagents like NH₄I, MgBr₂·6H₂O, and MgCl₂·6H₂O, we have succeeded in the hydrohalogenation of electron-rich aromatic alkynes in liquid SO₂ (Scheme 1, B.). Most of these salts are used as halide sources in alkyne hydrohalogenation for the first time. Moreover, ammonium iodide works as both iodide and proton donor in a reaction mixture without the need for water additive.

Finally, we have found application of liquid SO₂ as a reaction media for *in situ* generation of α -vinyl triflates from aromatic alkynes by employing TMSOTf as a triflate ion source (Scheme 1, C.). The use of this method is demonstrated by two-step one-pot synthesis of α -CF₃ ketones, pyrimidines and Suzuki cross-coupling products.



Scheme 1: Alkyne transformations in liquid SO₂ via vinyl carbenium ion intermediate.

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References:

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