

## **LiClO<sub>4</sub> CATALYZED AZA-MICHAEL ADDITION OF SECONDARY AMINES TO $\alpha,\beta$ -UNSATURATED ESTERS UNDER A SOLVENT-FREE CONDITION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

An efficient aza-Michael addition of secondary amines to some  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated esters has been carried out using LiClO<sub>4</sub> as a catalyst.  $\beta$ -amino esters were obtained in high yields at room temperature without using solvent.

*Keywords:* aza-Michael reaction, secondary amines,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated esters,  $\beta$ -amino esters.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Michael reaction and its modified form such as aza-Michael, thio-Michael and carba-Michael reaction are among the most exploited reactions in organic chemistry [1]. Aza-Michael reaction products such as  $\beta$ -amino esters/ketones/nitriles are useful synthons for the preparation of several nitrogen containing bioactive natural products [2], antibiotics [3], and chiral auxiliaries [4]. Because a large number of biologically active compounds contain  $\beta$ -amino-ketone or ester moiety [5], the development of novel methodologies for the preparation of these compounds is an attractive area of research in synthetic organic chemistry.

The conjugate addition of a nitrogen nucleophile to an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ester leads to the formation of a  $\beta$ -amino ester [6].  $\beta$ -Amino esters are not only building units of biologically important natural products including  $\beta$ -lactams but also versatile nitrogen-containing intermediates for compounds such as  $\beta$ -amino alcohol,  $\beta$ -aminoacids,  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, and 1,2-diamines [7]. The conjugate addition of nitrogen nucleophiles to an unsaturated system requires either basic or acidic catalysts [8]. Lewis acid catalysts, such as SnCl<sub>4</sub>, AlCl<sub>3</sub>, or TiCl<sub>4</sub> [9], have been employed to effect this addition, but their use in stoichiometric amounts often cause severe environmental problems.

As a result of our continuing interest in studying the Michael reaction under solvent free and environmentally benign conditions, herein we report a process at room temperature using

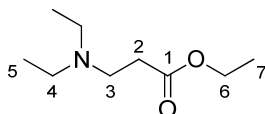
$\text{LiClO}_4$  as catalyst for the Michael addition of some secondary amines. The process is mild, easy to perform and gives excellent yield.

## 2. EXPERIMENTS

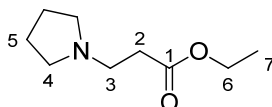
All reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using silicagel (Merck, 60–120 mesh). Column chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel (40–63  $\mu\text{m}$ ) packed by the slurry method, under a positive pressure of air. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova NMR Spectrometer ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR running at 500 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR running at 125 MHz). The  $\text{CDCl}_3$  was used as the NMR solvent unless otherwise stated. All products were characterized by comparison of their  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra with those of in literature. The starting chemicals were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

**General procedure for aza-Michael addition:** a mixture of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ester (10 mmol), amine (11 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and  $\text{LiClO}_4$  (106.5 mg, 1.0 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) were stirred at room temperature for three days. The excess of organic components then were evaporated *in vacuo*. All products were purified by column chromatography and their structures were confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR.

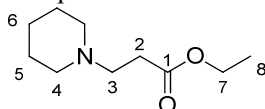
**Ethyl 3-(diethylamino)propanoate:** Colourless liquid. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.06 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H, H6), 2.72 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, H3), 2.44 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 4H, H4), 2.36 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, H2), 1.18 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H7), 0.95 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 6H, H5). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.8 (C1), 60.2 (C6), 48.1 (C3), 46.8 (C4), 32.4 (C2), 14.1 (C7), 11.9 (C5). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [10].



**Ethyl 3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propanoate:** Colourless liquid. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.11 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H, H6), 2.74 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, H3), 2.52–2.47 (m, 6H, H4 and H2), 1.77–1.72 (m, 4H, H5), 1.23 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H7). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.4 (C1), 60.3 (C6), 54.0 (C4), 51.4 (C3), 34.2 (C2), 23.5 (C5), 14.2 (C7). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [10].

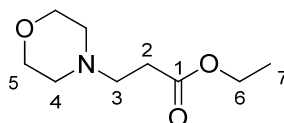


**Ethyl 3-(piperidin-1-yl)propanoate:** Colourless liquid. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.11 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H, H7), 2.64 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, H3), 2.47 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, H2), 2.40–2.33 (m, 4H, H4), 1.59 – 1.52 (m, 4H, H5), 1.44–1.37 (m, 2H, H6), 1.23 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H8). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.7 (C1), 60.2 (C7), 54.2 (C3), 54.1 (C4), 32.3 (C2), 25.9 (C5), 24.3 (C6), 14.2 (C8). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [11].

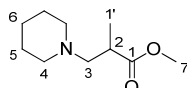


**Ethyl 3-morpholinopropanoate:** Colourless liquid. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.11 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H, H6), 3.67–3.62 (m, 4H, H5), 2.64 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H, H3), 2.47–2.39 (m, 6H, H4 and H2), 1.21 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, H7).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.3 (C1), 66.9

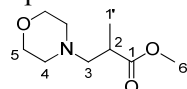
(C5), 60.3 (C6), 53.9 (C3), 53.3 (C4), 32.1 (C2), 14.2 (C7). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [10].



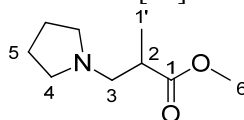
**Methyl 2-methyl-3-(piperidin-1-yl)propanoate:** Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.66 (s, 3H, H7), 2.73 – 2.63 (m, 1H, H2), 2.59 (dd,  $J$  = 12.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.38 – 2.24 (m, 5H, H4 and H2), 1.56 – 1.47 (m, 4H, H5), 1.38 (t,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 2H, H6), 1.12 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H1'). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.7 (C1), 62.4 (C3), 54.6 (C4), 51.4 (C7), 37.9 (C2), 26.0 (C5), 24.4 (C6), 15.7 (C1'). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [11].



**Methyl 2-methyl-3-morpholinopropanoate:** Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.65 (s, 3H, H6), 3.65 – 3.61 (m, 3H, H5), 2.71 – 2.64 (m, 1H, H2), 2.61 (dd,  $J$  = 12.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.48 – 2.32 (m, 4H, H4), 2.27 (dd,  $J$  = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H3), 1.12 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H1'). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.3 (C1), 67.0 (C5), 62.0 (C3), 53.7 (4), 51.5 (C6), 37.5 (C2), 15.4 (C1'). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [10].

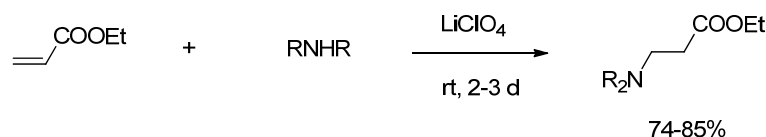


**Methyl 2-methyl-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propanoate:** Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.69 (s, 3H, H6), 2.77 (dd,  $J$  = 11.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.71 – 2.62 (m, 1H, H2), 2.53-2.37 (m, 5H, H2 và H4), 1.74 (m, 4H, H5), 1.17 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H1'). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.6 (C1), 59.6 (C3), 54.2 (C4), 51.6 (C6), 39.6 (C2), 23.5 (C5), 15.8 (C1'). NMR spectroscopic data matched with the published data [10].




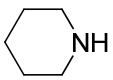
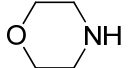
### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our study we did not employ primary amines to avoid double addition, which could lead to a mixture of products. At first, we examined the reaction of pyrrolidine with ethyl acrylate and 10 % mole of LiClO<sub>4</sub> at room temperature in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was not complete after three days (TLC analysis). Then the reaction was carried out under solvent-free condition. Partial conversion took place within 1 day, leading to aza-Michael reaction adduct. Complete conversion was observed in 3 days. We then continued reactions between diethylamine, piperidine and morpholine and ethyl acrylate at the same conditions. After 2-3 d, the reactions were completed with very good yields of the Michael adducts (Scheme 1). The results are shown in the Table 1.

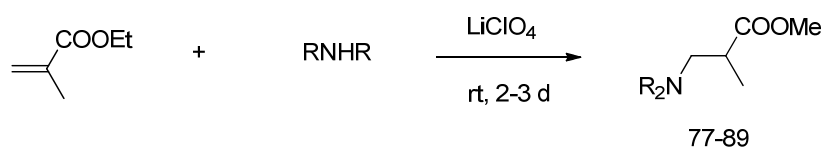


*Scheme 1.* Aza-Michael addition of secondary amine to ethyl acrylate.

Table 1. Aza-Michael addition of secondary amine to ethyl acrylate.


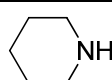
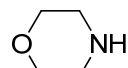
Reaction	Amines	Time (Days)	Yield (%)
1	(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NH	2	85
2		2	89
3		2.5	98
4		3	81

Finally, we carried out the aza-Michael addition between pyrrolidine, piperidine and morpholine and methylmetacrylate at the same conditions described above (Scheme 2). The results were shown in Table 2.



Scheme 2. Aza-Michael addition of secondary amine to methylmetacrylate.

Table 2. Aza-Michael addition of secondary amine to methylmetacrylate.

Reaction	Amines	Time (Days)	Yield (%)
5		2	76
6		2.5	85
7		3	81

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Seven aza-Michael reactions between selected secondary amines and ethylacrylate as well as methylmetacrylate using LiClO<sub>4</sub> as catalyst were carried out with high yields. This is the first time the aza-Michael addition with this catalyst was carried out under solvent free conditions.

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## TÓM TẮT

PHẢN ỨNG CỘNG AZA- MICHAEL CỦA MỘT SỐ AMIN BẬC HAI VÀO  $\alpha,\beta$ -ESTERS KHÔNG NO SỬ DỤNG XÚC TÁC LiClO<sub>4</sub> TRONG ĐIỀU KIỆN KHÔNG DUNG MÔI

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Phản ứng cộng aza-Michael của amin bậc hai vào  $\alpha,\beta$ -este không no đã được thực hiện với xúc tác  $\text{LiClO}_4$  ở nhiệt độ thường và trong điều kiện không dung môi. Các  $\beta$ -amino este thu được với hiệu suất cao.

*Từ khóa:* phản ứng aza-Michael, amin bậc hai,  $\alpha,\beta$ -este không no,  $\beta$ -amino este.