

Mostly equatorial isomer the major conformer in solution... or is it?

C-4 Alkyl versus Alkoxy: Calculations



Woods, R. J.; Andrews, C. W.; Bowen, J. P. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1992, 114, 859.
Miljkovic, M.; Yeagley, D.; Deslongchamps, P.; Dory, Y. L. J. Org. Chem. 1997, 62, 7597.

 Alkoxy groups axial due to electrostatic attraction of oxygen to the cationic carbon

Substituted Oxocarbenium Ions



Because steric interactions are similar in each case...

 $k_{\text{equat}} \approx k_{\text{axial}} \implies$ product ratio $\approx K_{\text{eq}}$

("Winstein-Hollness kinetic scenario")

Seeman, J. I. Chem. Rev. 1983, 83, 83.

X = OR should give opposite product to reaction where X = R

C-4 Substituted Oxocarbenium Ions



Dr. Jan Romero, Dr. Sarah Tabacco

Control experiments indicate that:

- 1. Oxocarbenium ions are likely intermediates
- 2. Ion-pairing effects do not control selectivity

Explanation of Selectivity

<u>Alkyl:</u>



Selectivity consistent with the calculated conformational preferences

Origin of Selectivity: Anchimeric Assistance or Electrostatic Effects?

Is the heteroatom donating its lone pair to form a bridged structure...



... or do electrostatic effects hold the charged units together?



Results with Halogen Series



effects, not anchimeric assistance

Halogen-Substituted Oxocarbenium Ions

If anchimeric assistance operates:



If electrostatic effects operate:



Trans selectivity: F > Cl > Br > I

Structural Evidence for **Conformational Preferences**







Dr. Steve Chamberland, Dr. Joe Ziller

Alkoxy-substituted dioxocarbenium ion prefers pseudoaxial conformer

Dr. Claudia Lucero, Dr. Sarah Tabacco













Bicyclic Oxocarbenium Ions

The idea:

A bicyclic oxocarbenium ion would reside in only one conformer



 Diastereoselectivity would give a quantitative measure of the stereoelectronic preference for inside attack versus outside attack

Bicyclic Oxocarbenium Ions



■ Inside attack model is useful in a number of settings

Application of the Inside Attack Model: The Ribosyl Cation $BnO \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{F} + \underbrace{SiMe_3}_{93\%} \xrightarrow{BF_3 \cdot OEt_2}_{BnO} \xrightarrow{4} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{1} \xrightarrow{2}_{OBn}$

Ishido, Y. Carbohydr. Res. 1987, 171, 125.

100 : 0 selectivity



This structure maximizes electrostatic interactions and hyperconjugation



Disiloxane-bridged Oxocarbenium Ion

Two possibilities:

1. Ring is more flexible



van Boom, J. H. Acta Cryst. 1981, B37, 1924

Disiloxane-bridged Oxocarbenium Ion

2. Ring is less flexible



Rigidity of disiloxane ring may dictate motion of five-membered ring



Measures of nucleophilicity: Mayr, H. Acc. Chem. Res. 2003, 36, 66-77.

stereoelectronically disfavored products?

Reactivity-Selectivity Principle

As reactants become more reactive, selectivities decrease

Intuitively appealing... but "constant selectivity" more common (relative rate is independent of absolute rate)

Mayr, H.; Ofial, A. R. "The Reactivity-Selectivity Principle: An Imperishable Myth in Organic Chemistry," *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 1844.

 Correlation between reactivity and selectivity only predictable as rates approach the diffusion rate limit

Why is Reaction with a Highly Reactive Nucleophile Unselective?



For Strong Nucleophiles, Bond Formation Faster than Diffusion



As rate of nucleophilic attack approaches rate of diffusion => selectivity decreases

Correlation between reactivity and selectivity

Selectivity as Function of Nucleophilicity: *O*-Glycosylation





OBn

- For F₃C−CH₂OH, rate below diffusion limit ⇒ stereoelectronic control
 For H₃C−CH₂OH, rate near the diffusion limit ⇒ diffusion control
- For H₃C–CH₂OH, rate near the diffusion limit ⇒ diffusion control (see Jencks, W. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 7888)

Reactions of Oxocarbenium Ions

 Electrostatic effects influence the conformational preferences of heteroatom-substituted oxocarbenium ions



- Stereoelectronic effects determine which face of an oxocarbenium ion is attacked
- Consider interactions of nucleophiles with substituents when analyzing selectivities (Curtin–Hammett Principle)
- Reactions with highly reactive nucleophiles can occur at or near the diffusion rate limit

