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## A CONVENIENT METHOD FOR SYNTHESIS OF 5-CHLORO-2-ARYLOXAZOLE-4-CARBALDEHYDE WITH VILSMEIER REAGENT

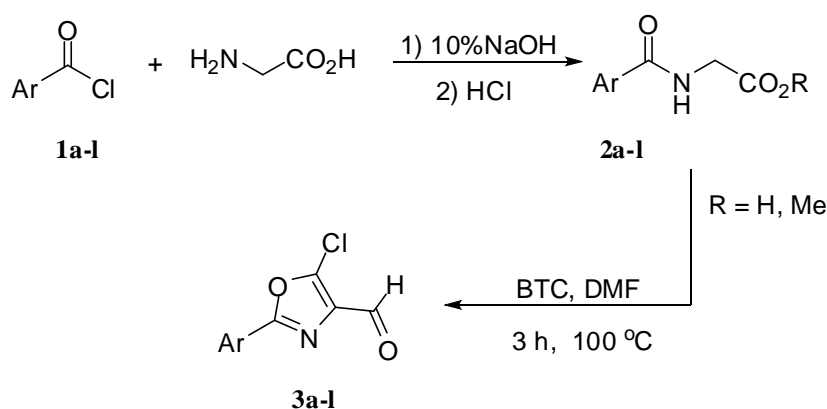
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**Abstract** – A convenient method for synthesis of 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde **3** in moderate to good yields had been developed via the Vilsmeier reaction of readily available *N*-arylglycine **2** at 100 °C, provided a novel route for the construction of nitrogen heterocycles. A series of these compounds were synthesized by this method and optimization of conditions was performed.

In the previous work, our group<sup>1</sup> had described a mild and efficient method for the synthesis of substituted 1,4-dichloroisoquinolines and 5-aryloxazole-4-carboxaldehydes<sup>2,3</sup> from various phenacyl azides under Vilsmeier conditions. But there were few publications refer to the 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde. In 1993 Gerrit L'abbé *et al.*<sup>4</sup> had reported that 5-chlorooxazole-4-carbaldehyde was afforded by 5-methoxyoxazole under Vilsmeier reaction which was from methyl benzoylaminoacetate dehydrated to by a known procedure.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, we got inspiration from an article<sup>6</sup> about a novel synthesis of 2-butyl-5-chloro-3*H*-imidazole-4-carbaldehyde which is a key intermediate for the synthesis of the Angiotensin II Antagonist Losartan. In this article, Gareth J. Griffiths<sup>6</sup> proposed that the synthesis of 2-butyl-5-chloro-3*H*-imidazole-4-carbaldehyde used (Pentanimidoylamino)acetic acid, and got a better yield. Hence, we had a try to synthesize the similar construction of oxazole derivatives from glycine. Fortunately, we found that a series of 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde compounds were gained with Vilsmeier reagent in good yield.

In our article, we prepared Vilsmeier reagent from bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate (BTC, triphosgene) and DMF. As is well known, Vilsmeier reagent has been found extensive application in the organic synthesis. It was used for the introduction of formyl group in active aromatic and heteroaromatic compounds.<sup>7</sup> Subsequently, the utilizations had been exploited in chlorination,<sup>8</sup> chlorformylation,<sup>9,10</sup> aromatization<sup>11</sup> and cyclizations.<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate's use had been proved much safer and more environmentally friendly<sup>13</sup> than traditional reagents, such as phosgene, POCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Scheme 1**

We had isolated the appropriate *N*-acyl derivatives **2a-I** which were synthesized from commercially available glycine with aromatic acid chlorides in the presence of 10% aqueous NaOH.<sup>14-16</sup> *N*-Arylglycine **2a-I** were used as substrates to generate 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde **3a-I** with BTC and DMF under appropriate conditions (Scheme 1).

Next, we investigated various condition including the effect of solvents and reaction conditions in the synthesis of 5-chloro-2-benzoyloxazole-4-carbaldehyde (**3a**). According to Table 1, after screening a variety of ratios, a 1:3:1 ratio of BTC /DMF /*N*-benzoylglycine (**2a**) was determined to be suitable. If the ratio of **2a** was increased, the yield was reduced obviously (Table 1, Entry 5). In the same time, the reaction would be taken place much better at 100 °C than 60 °C or room temperature (Table 1, Entries 1-4). Moreover, to determine the most appropriate solvent, we chosen several kinds of solvents (toluene, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, MeCN, CCl<sub>4</sub>, THF), and toluene proved to be the best in all cases (Table 1, Entry 3). The work-up in toluene was much more comfortable than in other solvents (Table 1, Entries 7-10). Finally, we found the optimized conditions for this reaction as following: 1:3:1 mol ratio of BTC, DMF and *N*-benzoylglycine (**2a**) in dry toluene at 100 °C for 3 hours.

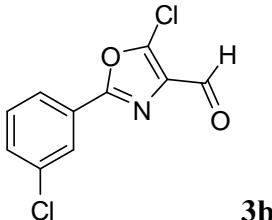
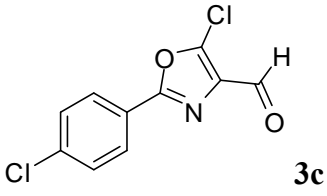
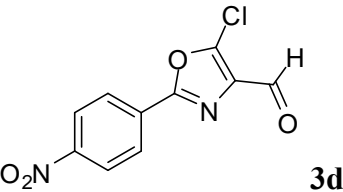
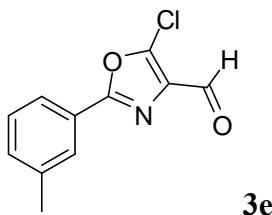
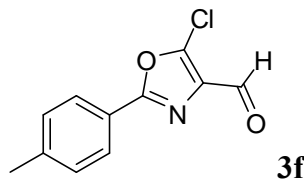
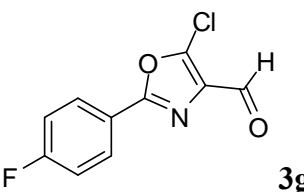
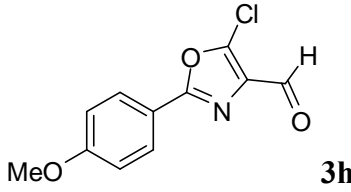
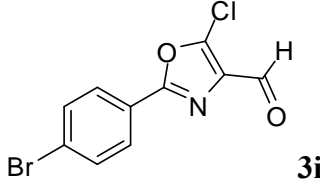
**Table 1.** Influence of reaction conditions for the synthesis of **3a**

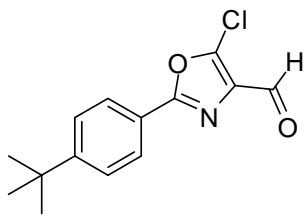
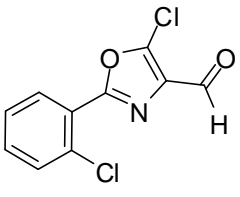
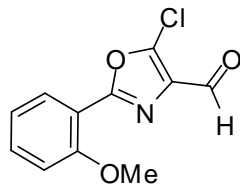
Entry	Ratio of BTC:DMF: <b>2a</b> (Ar = C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , R = H)	Solvent	Condition	Yield(%)
1	1:3:1	toluene	rt, 4 h	38
2	1:3:1	toluene	60 °C, 3 h	54
3	1:3:1	toluene	100 °C, 3 h	71
4	1:3:1	toluene	reflux, 3 h	70
5	1:3:1.5	toluene	100 °C, 3 h	40
6	1:3:0.5	toluene	100 °C, 3 h	72
7	1:3:1	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	reflux, 3 h	45
8	1:3:1	MeCN	reflux, 3 h	50
9	1:3:1	CCl <sub>4</sub>	reflux, 3 h	56
10	1:3:1	THF	reflux, 3 h	44

To extend the scope of generality of this procedure, a series of *N*-arylglycine were investigated. Based on the results in Table 1, we explored the scope of the substrates under the optimized conditions (Table 2). As expected, most of *N*-arylglycine worked well under the reaction condition. Obviously, the *N*-arylglycine possessing electron-donating functional groups were found to give higher yields than those of electron-withdrawing groups. Meanwhile, we found that steric hindrance of the substituent groups on the aromatic rings had enormous effect on the efficiency. The *ortho*-substituted aromatic ring of substrates hardly gave the products (Table 2, Entries 11-12).

**Table 2.** Synthesis of 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde Using BTC and DMF

Entry	Ar	R	Product	Yields(%)
1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me	 <b>3a</b>	71 55

2	3-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H		65
3	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me		64 51
4	4-O <sub>2</sub> NC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me		57 49
5	3-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H		74
6	4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me		72 55
7	4-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H		40
8	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me		83 65
9	4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H		65

10	4-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me	 <b>3j</b>	78 59
11	2-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me	 <b>3k</b>	0
12	2-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H Me	 <b>3l</b>	0

Furthermore, we compared the yields of product **3a** which were prepared from the glycine and glycine methyl ester, respectively. Interestingly, *N*-benzoylglycine was found to give higher yield than those of *N*-benzoylglycine methyl ester as the raw material (Table 2, Entry 1).

For proving the results above, we selected several representational functional groups, including chloro, nitro, fluo, methoxy, methyl, *t*-Bu. In comparison, using *N*-benzoylglycine methyl ester instead of *N*-arylglycine as the substrate provides lower yields (Table 2, Entries 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10).

On the other hand, using POCl<sub>3</sub> provides a bit higher yield probably due to the higher reactivity of the corresponding iminium salts. For instance, 76% yield of 5-chloro-2-benzoyloxazole-4-carbaldehyde (**3a**) was gained under POCl<sub>3</sub>/DMF system. However, 71% yield of it under BTC/DMF system. But, unfortunately, the *ortho*-substituted aromatic ring of substrates still could not be prepared under POCl<sub>3</sub>/DMF system (Table 2, Entries 11-12).

In conclusion, we have developed a novel and convenient method for the synthesis of 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde from *N*-arylglycine under BTC and DMF system. The structures of the compounds were established by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, IR and MS (All unknown compounds were further confirmed by HRMS (EI)). This method offers significant advantages including mild conditions, more environmentally friendly bis(trichloromethyl) carbonate (BTC, triphosgene) instead of traditional reagents, and good yields.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined by Büchi B-540 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra (KBr pellet) were measured on a Nicolet Avatar-370 spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Varian 400-MHz spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a Thermo Finnigan LCQ-Advantage spectrometer (ESI, APCI) or a Finnigan Trace DSQ spectrometer (EI, CI). HRMS was carried out on an APEX (Bruker) mass III spectrometer.

### Typical procedure for the Preparation of *N*-aryl glycine 2a

To a solution of glycine (3.0 g, 40.0 mmol) in 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (50 mL) was added benzoyl chloride (7.0 mL, 60.3 mmol), and stirred vigorously for 5 h at room temperature. Cool water (50 g) was added into the solution, then concentrated HCl was added dropwise until the mixture was acidified (pH 1-2). White crystalline solid as the resulting compound was obtained.

### Typical procedure for the Preparation of 5-chloro-2-aryloxazole-4-carbaldehyde 3a

The Vilsmeier type reagent was prepared by adding dropwise of a solution of BTC (4.5 g, 15 mmol) in toluene (25 mL) into DMF (3.3 g, 45 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) at 0 °C, and then stirring at room temperature for 20 min. The compound was added into the Vilsmeier type reagent and heated to 90 °C for 4 h. The brown reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and then poured cautiously into ice-water (60 cm<sup>3</sup>). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with toluene (3×30 mL). The combined extracts were washed with water (3×30 mL) and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether: EtOAc (10:1) as the eluent to get the compound.

### 5-Chloro-2-phenyloxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3a)

White solid. mp 92-94 °C (Lit.,<sup>6</sup> mp 91-93 °C). IR (KBr): 3422, 3073, 1688, 1417 cm<sup>-1</sup>.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 7.48-7.56 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 182.1, 161.1, 143.0, 133.9, 131.8, 129.0, 126.7, 125.4. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 209 ([M<sup>+</sup>+2], 11), 207(M<sup>+</sup>, 31), 172(100), 116(98), 89(96).

### 5-Chloro-2-(3-chlorophenyl)oxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3b)

Yellow solid. mp 132-133 °C. IR (KBr): 3435, 3067, 1694, 1556  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.96 (s, 1H), 8.04 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.93 (dt,  $J_1 = 7.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.50 (dt,  $J = 8.4$  Hz,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.7, 159.4, 143.0, 135.1, 133.8, 131.7, 130.2, 126.5, 124.7. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 243 ( $[\text{M}^++2]$ , 19), 241( $\text{M}^+$ , 30), 206(100), 150(91), 123(71). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_5\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 240.9697, found: 240.9705.

### 5-Chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)oxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3c)

Yellow solid. mp 145-146 °C. IR (KBr): 3432, 3091, 1698, 1544  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.7, 159.9, 147.6, 138.0, 133.8, 129.3, 128.2, 127.8. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 241( $\text{M}^+$ , 20), 240( $[\text{M}^+-1]$ , 36), 222(100), 221(50). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{NO}_3[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 240.9697, found: 240.9705.

### 5-Chloro-2-(4-nitrophenyl)oxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3d)

White solid. mp 142-143 °C. IR (KBr): 3447, 3104, 1699, 1525  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.6, 158.5, 149.3, 143.8, 134.2, 130.5, 127.4, 124.2. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 253( $[\text{M}^++1]$ , 30), 252( $\text{M}^+$ , 100), 251(30). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_5\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 251.9938, found: 251.9939.

### 5-Chloro-2-*m*-tolylloxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3e)

White solid. mp 101-102 °C. IR (KBr): 2923, 2574, 1687, 1589  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.94 (s, 1H), 7.81-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.41 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.8, 162.6, 147.5, 144.6, 134.4, 132.0, 130.5, 128.6, 127.2, 123.8, 21.3. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 203( $[\text{M}^++2]$ , 12), 221( $\text{M}^+$ , 34), 136(42), 119(100), 91(75). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{ClNO}_2[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 221.0244, found: 221.0249.

### 5-Chloro-2-*p*-tolylloxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3f)

White solid. mp 107-108 °C. IR (KBr): 3434, 2846, 1699, 1550  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.98 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 182.1, 161.4, 142.5, 133.8, 126.7, 122.6, 21.6. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 223( $[\text{M}^++2]$ , 15), 221( $\text{M}^+$ , 41), 186(55), 130(100), 103(88). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{ClNO}_2[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 221.0244, found: 221.0249.

**5-Chloro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)oxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3g)**

Brown solid. mp 133-134 °C. IR (KBr): 3000, 2677, 1682, 1430  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.98 (s, 1H), 8.07 (dt,  $J = 7.2$  Hz,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.22 (dt,  $J = 8.8$  Hz,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 2H),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 182.0, 166.1, 163.6, 133.9, 129.1, 129.0, 121.8, 116.5, 116.3, MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 227( $[\text{M}^++2]$ , 10), 225( $\text{M}^+$ , 28), 190(100), 134(86), 107(90). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_5\text{ClFNO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 224.9993, found: 225.0002.

**5-Chloro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)oxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3h)**

White solid. mp 110-111 °C. IR (KBr): 3423, 2925, 1699, 1589  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.94 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.8, 162.3, 161.1, 147.3, 133.7, 128.8, 128.4, 117.9, 114.4, 55.5. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 239( $[\text{M}^++2]$ , 33), 237( $\text{M}^+$ , 100), 180(62), 119(27). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{ClNO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 237.0193, found: 237.0198.

**2-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-Chlorooxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3i)**

Brown solid. mp 149-150 °C. IR (KBr): 3446, 2923, 1698, 1542  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.7, 160.0, 142.9, 133.9, 132.2, 127.9, 124.1. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 285( $\text{M}^+$ , 42), 283(30), 282(100), 277(45). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_5\text{BrClNO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 284.9192, found: 284.9205.

**2-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-5-Chlorooxazole-4-carbaldehyde (3j)**

White solid. mp 65-66 °C. IR (KBr): 3381, 2966, 1704, 1547  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 181.8, 161.0, 155.2, 142.5, 133.7, 126.7, 126.3, 125.8, 35.1, 31.1. MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) = 263( $\text{M}^+$ , 33), 261(100), 169(35). HRMS (EI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 263.0713, found: 263.0721.

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