

METHOD FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF AN AMINO ACETAL

Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority of United States Provisional Patent Application No. 61/361,846, filed 6 July 2010, the contents of which being hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

Technical Field

[0002] The invention relates to a method for the synthesis of an amino acetal, and in particular, an α -amino acetal (alpha-amino acetal) having the amino group formed at the α -position of the acetal.

Background

[0003] Many natural products or bio-molecules contain α -amino acid or α -amino alcohol units in their structures. While these units may be obtained from naturally occurring α -amino acids, general methods to obtain other non-natural α -amino acids are highly sought-after. Direct synthesis of α -amino acids from air by means of biomimetic methods has been regarded as one of the most challenging tasks. The biological method involving copper enzymatic activation of dioxygen has attracted considerable attention, owing to the existence of important copper mono-oxygenases. Mimicking this system to study copper-dioxygen interactions and further applications of dioxygen-copper systems in organic synthesis, especially in the developments of aliphatic C-H bond oxidation or C-H bond amination chemistry, has attracted tremendous interest. For C-H bond activation, dioxygen-copper systems provide an alternative to the commonly employed methods which use expensive metal catalysts and stoichiometric metal oxidants.

Summary

[0004] Various embodiments of the present invention provide for a direct synthesis method of forming α -amino acetals by employing less expensive copper catalysts and oxidants to oxidize the starting amine compounds. Yields as high as 80% (based on the starting amine compounds) have been achieved via the present method.

[0005] Various embodiments of the invention provide for a method for the synthesis of an α -amino acetal, comprising (i) oxidizing a tertiary amine in the presence of a copper catalyst, at least one oxidant and a solvent, or (ii) reacting a secondary amine and an aliphatic aldehyde in the presence of a copper catalyst, at least one oxidant and a solvent.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0006] In the drawings, like reference characters generally refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale, emphasis instead generally being placed upon illustrating the principles of various embodiments. In the following description, various embodiments of the invention are described with reference to the following drawings.

[0007] **Figure 1(A)** shows a method for copper-catalyzed oxidative rearrangement of tertiary amines via C-H bond oxidation; **Figure 1(B)** shows a method for copper-catalyzed C-H bond amination for direct synthesis of α -amino acetals from secondary amines and aliphatic aldehydes.

[0008] **Figure 2(A)** shows a possible mechanism of forming 4-(dicyclohexylamino)butyl-D8 acetate (**11**) of Example 1; **Figure 2(B)** shows a possible mechanism of forming 3-(dicyclohexylamino)-4,4-dimethoxybutyl-D5 acetate (**21**) of Example 1.

[0009] **Figure 3** shows a method for forming methyl 4-(((S)-1-(tert-butyl)dimethylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (**2j**) (Scheme 1); a possible mechanism for the method of **Figure 1(A)** (Scheme 2); and a method for forming *N,N*-diisobutyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (**2k**) from *N,N*-diisobutylhex-1-en-1-amine (**1k**) of Example 1 (Scheme 3).

[0010] **Figure 4** shows the deuterium labelling experiment of Example 1 and the respective possible mechanism (Schemes 4 and 5).

[0011] **Figure 5** shows a chiral secondary amine for C-H bond amination reaction of Example 2 (Scheme 6) and a method for forming *N,N*-diallyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (**3k**) from *N,N*-diallylhex-1-en-1-amine (**1k'**) of Example 2 (Scheme 7).

[0012] **Figure 6** shows the deuterated labeling experiment of Example 2 (Scheme 8).

[0013] **Figure 7(A)** and **(B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of (S)-methyl 5-(((1-(tert-butyl)dimethylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino)pentanoate (**1j**) of Example 1.

[0014] **Figure 8(A)** and **(B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of 4-(dicyclohexylamino)butyl-D8 acetate (**1l**) of Example 1.

[0015] **Figure 9(A)** and **(B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2a**) of Example 1.

[0016] **Figure 10(A)** and **(B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxypropan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**3a'**) of Example 1.

[0017] **Figure 11(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2b**) of Example 1.

[0018] **Figure 12(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxydodecan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2c**) of Example 1.

[0019] **Figure 13(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of methyl 4-(dicyclohexylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (**2d**) of Example 1.

[0020] **Figure 14(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-(6-bromo-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-yl)-*N*-cyclohexylcyclohexanamine (**2e**) of Example 1.

[0021] **Figure 15(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxyhex-5-en-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2f**) of Example 1.

[0022] **Figure 16(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of 2-(4-(dicyclohexylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**2g**) of Example 1.

[0023] **Figure 17(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of 4-(dicyclohexylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentyl acetate (**2h**) of Example 1.

[0024] **Figure 18(A) and (B)** show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-(1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-yl)-*N*-isopropylcyclohexanamine (**2i**) of Example 1.

[0025] Figure 19(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of a first isomer of methyl 4-(((S)-1-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (**2j**) of Example 1.

[0026] Figure 20(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of a second isomer of methyl 4-(((S)-1-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (**2j**) of Example 1.

[0027] Figure 21(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-diisobutyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (**2k**) of Example 1.

[0028] Figure 22(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of 3-(dicyclohexylamino)-4,4-dimethoxybutyl-D5 acetate (**2l**) of Example 1.

[0029] Figure 23(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-amine (**3a**) of Example 2.

[0030] Figure 24(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-3-methylbutan-2-amine (**3b**) of Example 2.

[0031] Figure 25(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyoctan-2-amine (**3c**) of Example 2.

[0032] Figure 26(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxypent-4-en-2-amine (**3d**) of Example 2.

[0033] Figure 27(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of (*Z*)-*N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyhept-4-en-2-amine (**3e**) of Example 2.

[0034] Figure 28(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-5-(tert-butyl-diphenylsilyloxy)-1,1-dimethoxypentan-2-amine (3f) of Example 2.

[0035] Figure 29(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-3-phenylpropan-2-amine (3g) of Example 2.

[0036] Figure 30(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of methyl 4-(dibenzylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (3h) of Example 2.

[0037] Figure 31(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-allyl-*N*-benzyl-1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-amine (3i) of Example 2.

[0038] Figure 32(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N*-benzyl-1,1-diethoxy-*N*-((*R*)-1-phenylethyl)butan-2-amine (3j) of Example 2.

[0039] Figure 33(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-diallyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (3k) of Example 2.

[0040] Figure 34(A) and (B) show, respectively, the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-D6-butan-D1-2-amine (3l) of Example 2.

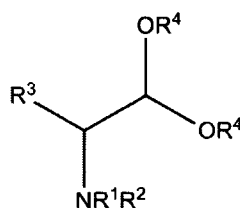
Description

[0041] The following detailed description refers to the accompanying drawings that show, by way of illustration, specific details and embodiments in which the invention may be practised. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practise the invention. Other embodiments may be utilized and structural changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. The

various embodiments are not necessarily mutually exclusive, as some embodiments can be combined with one or more other embodiments to form new embodiments.

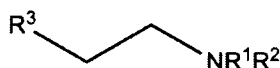
[0042] In various embodiments of the present invention, a method of synthesising an amino acetal is provided. The method may include oxidizing a tertiary amine in the presence of a copper catalyst, at least one oxidant and a solvent. The method may also include reacting a secondary amine and an aliphatic aldehyde in the presence of a copper catalyst, at least one oxidant and a solvent. The amino acetal formed thereof may be an α -amino acetal having the amino group formed at the α -position of the acetal.

[0043] In various embodiments, the method may include the synthesis of an α -amino acetal of formula I,



Formula I

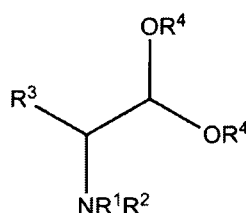
wherein the method comprises oxidizing a tertiary amine of formula II



Formula II

in the presence of a copper catalyst, one or more alcohols of formula R^4OH , at least one oxidant and a solvent, wherein each R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkenyl.

[0044] In various embodiments, the method may include the synthesis of an α -amino acetal of formula I,



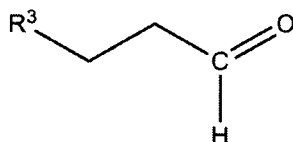
Formula I

wherein the method comprises reacting a secondary amine of formula III,



Formula III

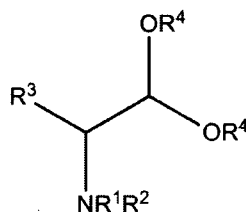
with an aliphatic aldehyde of formula IV,



Formula IV

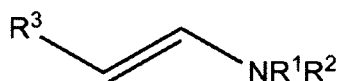
in the presence of a copper catalyst, one or more alcohols of formula R^4OH , at least one oxidant and a solvent, wherein each R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkenyl.

[0045] In various embodiments, the method may include the synthesis of an α -amino acetal of formula I,



Formula I

wherein the method comprises oxidizing an enamine of formula V,



Formula V

in the presence of a copper catalyst, one or more alcohols of formula R^4OH , at least one oxidant and a solvent, wherein each R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkenyl.

[0046] In the context of various embodiments, by " C_1 - C_{20} alkyl" is meant a straight chain or branched chain hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms. A C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group may be substituted or unsubstituted. Exemplary substituents include C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy, C_5 - C_{20} aryl, C_5 - C_{20} aryloxy, sulfhydryl, C_5 - C_{20} arylthio, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, sulfonyl, carbonyl, nitro, cyano, and carboxyl. Further, the alkyl group may comprise one or more heteroatoms, such as oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulfur. C_1 - C_{20} alkyl groups include, without limitation, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, and n-hexyl, among others.

[0047] In the context of various embodiments, by " C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl" is meant a straight chain or branched chain hydrocarbon group containing one or more double

bonds and having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms. The C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl group may be substituted or unsubstituted. Exemplary substituents include C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy, C₅-C₂₀ aryl, C₅-C₂₀ aryloxy, sulfhydryl, C₅-C₂₀ arylthio, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, sulfonyl, carbonyl, nitro, cyano, and carboxyl. Further, the alkenyl group may comprise one or more heteroatoms, such as oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulfur. C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl groups include, without limitation, vinyl, allyl, 1-propenyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, 2-methyl-1-propenyl, and 2-methyl-2-propenyl.

[0048] In the context of various embodiments, by "C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl" is meant a straight chain or branched chain hydrocarbon group containing one or more triple bonds and having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms. The C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl group may be substituted or unsubstituted. Exemplary substituents include C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy, C₅-C₂₀ aryl, C₅-C₂₀ aryloxy, sulfhydryl, C₅-C₂₀ arylthio, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, sulfonyl, carbonyl, nitro, cyano, and carboxyl. Further, the alkynyl group may comprise one or more heteroatoms, such as oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulfur. C₂-C₂₀ alkynyls include, without limitation, ethynyl, 1-propynyl, 2-propynyl, 1-butynyl, 2-butynyl, and 3-butynyl.

[0049] In the context of various embodiments, by "C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl" is meant a group comprising a non-aromatic ring (i.e. an alicyclic ring) wherein each of the atoms forming the ring is a carbon atom. The C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl may be formed by three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, or more than nine carbon atoms including twenty carbon atoms. Examples of C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl include cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, among others. In certain embodiments, the C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl may be optionally substituted. Exemplary substituents include C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy, C₅-C₂₀ aryl, C₅-C₂₀ aryloxy, sulfhydryl, C₅-C₂₀ arylthio, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, sulfonyl, carbonyl, nitro, cyano, and carboxyl.

[0050] In the context of various embodiments, by "C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkenyl" is meant a group comprising a non-aromatic ring (i.e. an alicyclic ring) wherein each of the atoms forming the ring is a carbon atom and contains one or more double bonds. The C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkenyl may be formed by three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, or more than nine carbon atoms including twenty carbon atoms. Examples of C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkenyl include cyclopropene, cyclobutene, cyclopentene, cyclohexene, cycloheptene, 1,3-cyclohexadiene, 1,4-cyclohexadiene, among others. In certain embodiments, the C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkenyl may be optionally substituted. Exemplary substituents include C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy, C₅-C₂₀ aryl, C₅-C₂₀ aryloxy, sulfhydryl, C₅-C₂₀ arylthio, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, sulfonyl, carbonyl, nitro, cyano, and carboxyl.

[0051] In the context of various embodiments, the terms "C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkyl" and "C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkenyl" have the general above definitions of "C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl" and "C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkenyl", respectively, except in the alicyclic ring at least one of the carbon atom in the ring is substituted with a heteroatom. Heteroatoms are typically independently selected from oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, and phosphorus, but are not limited to those atoms. The C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkyl or C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkenyl may be formed by three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, or more than nine atoms including twenty atoms. Examples of C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkyls and C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkenyls include, but are not limited to, lactams, lactones, cyclic imides, cyclic thioimides, cyclic carbamates, tetrahydrothiopyran, 4H-pyran, tetrahydropyran, piperidine, 1,3-dioxin, 1,3-dioxane, 1,4-dioxin, 1,4-dioxane, piperazine, 1,3-oxathiane, 1,4-oxathiane, tetrahydro-1,4-thiazine, 2H-1,2-oxazine, maleimide, succinimide, barbituric acid, thiobarbituric acid, dioxopiperazine, hydantoin, dihydrouracil, morpholine, trioxane, hexahydro-1,3,5-triazine, tetrahydrothiophene, tetrahydrofuran, pyrroline, pyrrolidine, pyrrolidone, pyrrolidione, pyrazoline, pyrazolidine, imidazoline,

imidazolidine, 1,3-dioxole, 1,3-dioxolane, 1,3-dithiole, 1,3-dithiolane, isoxazoline, isoxazohdme, oxazoline, oxazolidine, oxazolidinone, thiazoline, thiazolidine, and 1,3-oxathiolane. In certain embodiments, the C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkyls and C₃-C₂₀ heterocycloalkenyls may be optionally substituted. Exemplary substituents include alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, sulfhydryl, arylthio, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, and carboxyl.

[0052] In various embodiments, the copper catalyst may include copper (II) halide or copper (I) halide. The halide may include iodide, bromide and chloride.

[0053] In various embodiments, the copper catalyst may be selected from the group consisting of CuBr₂, CuI₂, CuI, and CuBr.

[0054] In various embodiments, the copper catalyst may be CuBr₂ or CuI₂.

[0055] In various embodiments, the copper catalyst may be CuI, CuBr or CuBr₂.

[0056] In yet further various embodiments, the copper catalyst may include copper salts such as, but not limited to, copper (II) acetate (Cu(OAc)₂) and copper (II) triflate Cu(OTf)₂.

[0057] In various embodiments, the one or more alcohols may be methanol or ethanol. In various other embodiments, the alcohol is n-propanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, tert-butanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol. Also contemplated are alcohols that have two or more hydroxy groups, i.e. are diols, triols, etc. Exemplary diols include, but are not limited to, 1,2-ethanediol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,4-butanediol, and glycerin.

[0058] In various embodiments, R¹ and R² may be selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl.

[0059] In various embodiments, R³ may be substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl.

[0060] In various embodiments, the solvent may include an organic solvent. For example, the organic solvent may include acetonitrile (MeCN), methanol (MeOH), 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), tetrahydrofuran (THF) and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).

[0061] In one embodiment, the solvent may be MeOH.

[0062] In another embodiment, the solvent may be MeCN.

[0063] In various embodiments, a mixture of organic solvents may also be used. For example, a mixture of MeOH and MeCN may be used. In various embodiments, the solvent may include a mixture of MeOH and MeCN having a volume ratio of MeOH:MeCN in a range of between about 1:1 and about 1:10, such as about 1:2, about 1:3, about 1:4, about 1:5, about 1:6, about 1:7, about 1:8 and about 1:9.

[0064] In various embodiments, the amine may be oxidized by air or molecular oxygen (O₂).

[0065] In yet various embodiments, oxidants such as a peroxide may be used. For example, tert-butyl hydroperoxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, tert-butyl benzoylperoxide, or a mixture thereof may be used.

[0066] In one embodiment, the oxidant may be tert-butyl hydroperoxide.

[0067] In various embodiments, the reaction may be carried out at a temperature of less than about 100 °C. For example, the reaction may be carried out at a temperature of less than about 60 °C.

[0068] In one embodiment, the reaction may be carried out at a temperature of about 40 °C.

[0069] In another embodiment, the reaction may be carried out at room temperature.

[0070] In various embodiments, the reaction may be optionally carried out in the presence of a nitrogen donor ligand. The nitrogen donor ligand acts a ligand to suppress the formation of undesirable side products during the reaction process.

[0071] In one embodiment the nitrogen donor ligand used may be *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA). Optionally, when TMEDA is used, the tertiary amine is *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine.

[0072] In various embodiments, the molar ratio of copper catalyst:TMEDA may be between about 1:1 and about 1:5. For example, the molar ratio of copper catalyst:TMEDA may be about 1:2.

[0073] In various embodiments, the reaction is carried out at atmospheric pressure.

[0074] The reaction may be carried out over a short period to a long period. In various embodiments, the reaction may be carried out for a period of between about 1 and about 100 hours.

[0075] In one embodiment, the reaction may be carried out for a period of between about 5 and about 48 hours.

[0076] In various embodiments, *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine is oxidized in the presence of CuBr₂, oxygen, TMEDA, MeOH and MeCN.

[0077] In one embodiment, *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.) is oxidized in an oxygen atmosphere at 40 °C using 25 mol% (0.25 equiv.) of CuBr₂ and 50 mol% (0.5 equiv.) of TMEDA as the catalytic system, the volume ratio of (0.2 mL) MeOH to (2 mL) MeCN being about 1:4.

[0078] In various embodiments, dibenzylamine and butyraldehyde are reacted in the presence of CuI, tert-butyl hydroperoxide, MeOH and MeCN.

[0079] In one embodiment, dibenzylamine (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.) and butyraldehyde (0.75 mmol) are reacted at about 40 °C in the presence of CuI (40 mol%, 0.4 equiv.), tert-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane, 1.1 equiv.), and the volume ratio of (0.4 mL) MeOH to (2 mL) MeCN was 1:5.

[0080] In order that the invention may be readily understood and put into practical effect, particular embodiments will now be described by way of the following non-limiting examples.

Examples

Example 1: Copper-Catalyzed Rearrangement of Tertiary Amines via Aliphatic C-

H Bond Oxidation in Air or Oxygen

[0081] In this example, a novel rearrangement of tertiary amines via aliphatic C-H bond oxidation in dioxygen-copper catalytic systems for the direct synthesis of α -amino acetals is provided. Compared with expensive metal catalyst and stoichiometric metal oxidants employed in the traditional methods for C-H bond oxidation, this catalytic system has the obvious advantages of mild reaction conditions and the use of air or oxygen as the oxidant.

[0082] Furthermore, a mechanism to account for the product observed was proposed based on the trapping and deuterium labelling experiments.

General Procedures

All reactions were carried out without exclusion of air or moisture unless otherwise stated. Copper salts, and *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA) were purchased from commercial suppliers, and used directly as received. Commercial solvents and reagents were used without further purification. Tertiary aliphatic amines **1(a-i)**, and enamine were synthesized according to literatures (Y. H. Ju, R. S. Varma, *Green Chem.*, **2004**, *6*, 219-221; Y. H. Ju, R. S. Varma, *J. Org. Chem.*, **2006**, *71*, 135-141; C. R. Smith, T. V. RajanBabu, *Org. Lett.*, **2008**, *10*(8), 1657-1659; D. M. Hodgson, C. D. Bray, N. D. Kindon, N. J. Reynolds, S. J. Coote, J. M. Um, and K. N. Houk, *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 1019-1028). Reactions were monitored through thin

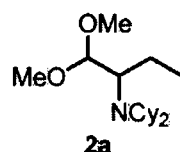
layer chromatography [Merck 60 F254 precoated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness)]. Subsequent to elution, spots were visualized using UV radiation (254 nm) on Spectroline Model ENF-24061/F 254 nm. Further visualization was possible using basic solution of potassium permanganate or acidic solution of ceric molybdate as stain, followed by heating on a hot plate. Flash chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel 60 with distilled solvents. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR Prestige-21 FT-IR. Liquid samples were examined as film between NaCl salt plates. HRMS spectra were recorded on a Waters Q-ToF Premier Spectrometer. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker Avance 300, 400 and 500 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts for ^1H NMR spectra are reported as δ in units of parts per million (ppm) downfield from SiMe_4 (δ 0.0) and relative to the signal of chloroform-*d* (δ 7.260, singlet). Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet); brs (broad singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); dd (doublets of doublet); ddd (doublets of doublets of doublet); td (triplet of doublet); m (multiplets); ddt (doublet of doublet of triplet) and etc. Coupling constants are reported as a *J* value in Hz. Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (^{13}C NMR) are reported as δ in units of parts per million (ppm) downfield from SiMe_4 (δ 0.0) and relative to the signal of chloroform-*d* (δ 77.00, triplet).

General Experimental Procedure for Copper-Catalyzed Oxidative Rearrangement of Tertiary Aliphatic Amines

[0083] Typical procedure for the copper-catalyzed oxidative rearrangement of tertiary amines (*N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine **1a** as an example) is illustrated in

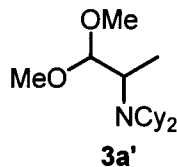
Figure 1. *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine **1a** (0.118 g, 0.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuBr_2 (28 mg, 0.125 mmol), and TMEDA (29 mg, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (0.5 mL)/acetonitrile (2.0 mL) in air at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C using O_2 balloon until *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine **1a** was completely converted by TLC detection. The resulting reaction mixture was mixed with a small amount of silica gel and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2a** as a light yellowish oil (99 mg, 66% yield) and a trace of product **3a** as a light yellowish oil. Then the product **2a** was dissolved in dichloromethane, hexane was added into it, and solvent was evaporated to obtain the crystal.

[0084] *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2a**):



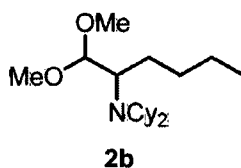
R_f = 0.79 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); mp: 73.5-74.2 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.150-4.145 (d, J = 2.02 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.74-2.64 (m, 3H), 1.74-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.57-0.94 (m, 16H), 0.92-0.88 (t, J = 7.39 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 112.3, 58.3, 56.64, 56.59, 54.1 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.5 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 26.8 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.0 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 19.0, 12.4 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 2930, 1215, 754, 669, 494 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 298.2746, found: 298.2743.

[0085] *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxypropan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**3a'**):



$R_f = 0.61$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.04-4.03 (d, $J = 4.05$ Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.99-2.93 (m, 1H), 2.67-2.61 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.70 (m, 4H), 1.63-1.51 (m, 6H), 1.36-1.16 (m, 8H), 1.05-0.95 (m, 5H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 111.5, 56.3, 56.1, 54.7 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 51.7, 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 33.9 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 26.9 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 26.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 26.0 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 14.1 ppm; **FTIR (neat):** $\nu = 2930$, 1215, 754, 669, 494 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 284.2590, found: 284.2597.

[0086] *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (2b):

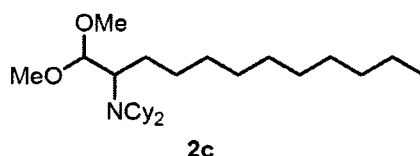


The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-hexylcyclohexanamine (1b) (0.132 g, 0.5 mmol). After 6 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product 2b as a light yellowish oil (0.105 g, 65% yield); $R_f = 0.81$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.14 (brs, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.75-2.69 (m, 3H), 1.73-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.15 (m, 20H), 1.04-0.96 (m, 2H), 0.90-0.86 (t, $J = 7.24$ Hz, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 112.4, 56.69, 56.63, 56.58, 54.1 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 29.9, 26.8 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.0 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 25.9, 23.1, 14.2 ppm; **FTIR**

(neat): $\nu = 2930, 1215, 754, 669, 494 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{40}\text{NO}_2^+$

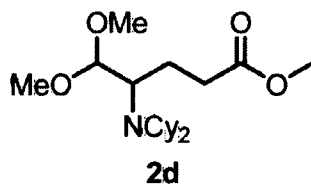
$[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 326.3059$, found: 326.3066.

[0087] *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxydodecan-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2c**):



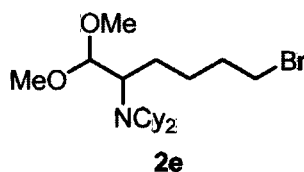
The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-dodecylcyclohexanamine (**1c**) (0.174 g, 0.5 mmol). After 24 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2c** as a light yellowish oil (0.125 g, 61% yield); $R_f = 0.83$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.138-4.134 (d, $J = 1.57 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.74-2.71 (m, 3H), 1.57-1.21 (m, 32H), 1.04-0.98 (m, 2H), 0.89-0.86 (t, $J = 7.01 \text{ Hz}$, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 112.4, 56.67, 56.61 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 54.1 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 34.59 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.56 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 31.9, 30.1, 29.7, 29.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 29.4, 27.6, 26.8 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.2, 26.0 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 22.7, 14.1 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 2930, 1215, 754, 669, 494 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 410.3998$, found: 410.3998.

[0088] Methyl 4-(dicyclohexylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (**2d**):



[0089] The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing methyl 5-(dicyclohexylamino)pentanoate (**1d**) (0.147 g, 0.5 mmol). After 12 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:2:100) to afford the desired product **2d** as a light yellowish oil (0.106 g, 60% yield); R_f = 0.65 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.183-4.178 (d, J = 1.97 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 2.85-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.73-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.28 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.54 (m, 9H), 1.47-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.16 (m, 8H), 1.04-0.94 (m, 2H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 174.9, 111.4, 56.4 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 55.7, 54.1 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 51.3, 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.3 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 31.8, 26.8 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 26.7 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 25.9 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 21.7 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 2930, 1730, 1449, 1215, 754, 669, 494 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{38}\text{NO}_4$ $[M+H]^+$ 356.2801, found: 356.2799.

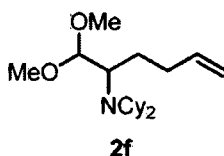
[0090] *N*-(6-bromo-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-yl)-*N*-cyclohexylcyclohexanamine (**2e**):



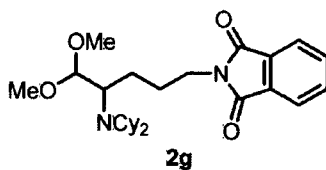
The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-(6-bromohexyl)-*N*-cyclohexylcyclohexanamine (**1e**) (0.172 g, 0.5 mmol). After 6 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2e** as a light yellowish oil (0.109 g, 54% yield); R_f = 0.75 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.15 (brs, 1H), 3.44-3.39 (m, 8H), 2.74-2.72 (m, 3H), 1.89-

1.82 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.64 (m, 5H), 1.57-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.18 (m, 13H), 1.00-0.98 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C – NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 112.2, 56.8, 56.7, 56.5, 54.1 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.5 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.2, 33.3, 26.8 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.2, 26.0 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 25.2 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 2930, 1449, 1215, 754, 669, 494 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{39}\text{BrNO}_2^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 404.2164, found: 404.2164.

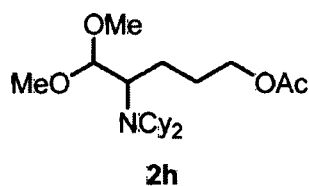
[0091] *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dimethoxyhex-5-en-2-yl)cyclohexanamine (**2f**):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-(hex-5-enyl)cyclohexanamine (**1f**) (0.131 g, 0.5 mmol). After 24 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2f** as a light yellowish oil (98 mg, 61% yield); $R_f = 0.5$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.87-5.80 (m, 1H), 5.02-4.98 (d, $J = 17.18 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 4.92-4.89 (d, $J = 10.22 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 4.154-4.150 (d, $J = 1.89 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 2.78-2.70 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.42 (m, 8H), 1.32-1.17 (m, 8H), 1.04-0.95 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 139.9, 113.6, 112.1, 56.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 56.1, 54.1 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.4 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 31.6, 26.8 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.0 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 25.5 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 2930, 1638, 1215, 754, 669 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{38}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 324.2903, found: 324.2901.

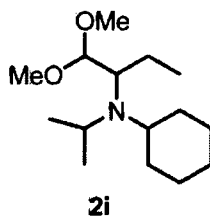
[0092] 2-(4-(dicyclohexylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**(2g):**

The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing 2-(5-(dicyclohexylamino)pentyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**1g**) (0.198 g, 0.5 mmol). After 20 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; diethyl ether/hexane = 2:100) to afford the desired product **2g** as a light yellowish oil (0.128 mg, 56% yield); $R_f = 0.50$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.64 (m, 2H), 4.122-4.117 (d, $J = 1.94$ Hz, 1H), 3.66-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.76-2.66 (m, 3H), 1.96-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.34 (m, 13H), 1.27-1.12 (m, 8H), 1.00-0.89 (m, 2H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.4 (C x 2), 133.6 (CH x 2), 132.2 (C x 2), 123.0 (CH x 2), 111.8, 56.7, 56.5, 56.2, 54.0 (CH_3 x 2), 38.4, 34.6 (CH_2 x 2), 34.3 (CH_2 x 2), 26.69 (CH_2 x 2), 26.66 (CH_2 x 2), 26.5, 25.9 (CH_2 x 2), 23.3 ppm; **FTIR (neat)**: $\nu = 3460, 2930, 1709, 1396, 1215, 754, 669, 494 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{41}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 457.3066, found: 457.3066.

[0093] 4-(dicyclohexylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentyl acetate (2h):

The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing 5-(dicyclohexylamino)pentyl acetate (**1h**) (0.154 g, 0.5 mmol). After 20 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; diethyl ether/hexane = 2:100) to afford the desired product **2h** as a light yellowish oil (0.101 mg, 55% yield); R_f = 0.60 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.158-4.153 (d, J = 1.77 Hz, 1H), 4.08-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.75-2.69 (m, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.36 (m, 9H), 1.31-1.17 (m, 8H), 1.04-0.94 (m, 2H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 171.3, 112.0, 65.2, 56.8, 56.7, 56.4, 54.0 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 34.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 34.4 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 26.73 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.67, 25.9 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 22.5, 21.0 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 2930, 1730, 1215, 756, 669, 494 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{40}\text{NO}_4$ $^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 370.2957, found: 370.2952.

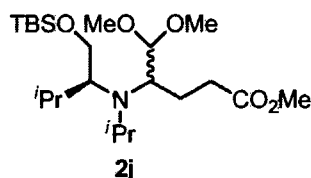
[0094] *N*-(1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-yl)-*N*-isopropylcyclohexanamine (**2i**):



[0095] The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-butyl-*N*-isopropylcyclohexanamine (**1i**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol). After 24 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2i** as a light yellowish oil (58 mg, 45% yield); R_f = 0.67 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.155-4.150 (d, J = 2.09 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s,

3H), 3.33-3.23 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.64 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.18 (m, 10H), 0.99-0.95 (m, 6H), 0.92-0.88 (t, $J = 7.43$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 111.9, 57.7, 56.6, 56.5, 53.5, 44.9, 34.4, 34.3, 26.8, 26.0, 23.5, 23.0, 18.9, 12.4 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 2930, 1215, 754, 669, 494\text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 258.2433, found: 258.2433.

[0096] methyl 4-(((S)-1-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (**2j**):



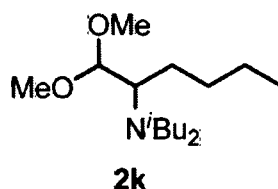
The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing (S)-methyl 5-(((1-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)(isopropyl)amino)pentanoate (**1j**) (0.186 g, 0.5 mmol). After 48 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **2j** as a light yellowish oil (0.112 g, 52% yield, 61:39 de).

One isomer: $R_f = 0.72$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.181-4.176 (d, $J = 1.89$ Hz, 1H), 3.72-3.58 (m, 5H), 3.44-3.35 (m, 7H), 3.09-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.48 (t, $J = 7.71$ Hz, 2H), 2.00-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.01-0.99 (d, $J = 6.64$ Hz, 6H), 0.98-0.96 (d, $J = 6.86$ Hz, 3H), 0.92-0.91 (d, $J = 6.68$ Hz, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.03 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.8, 112.5, 64.3, 61.5, 56.1, 56.0, 54.5, 51.2, 46.1, 31.7, 29.5, 25.9 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 3$), 23.5, 23.4, 22.8, 22.2, 19.8, 18.2, -5.6, -5.8 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 3019, 1730, 1215, 756, 669, 484\text{ cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $C_{22}H_{48}NO_5Si^+$ $[M+H]^+$ 434.3302, found: 434.3298; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ = - 31.0° ($c = 2.2$, CH_2Cl_2).

[0097] Another isomer: $R_f = 0.71$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 4.316-4.312 (d, $J = 1.44$ Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.75 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.55-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.44 (m, 4H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.90-2.88 (m, 1H), 2.60-2.48 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.04-1.02 (d, $J = 6.49$ Hz, 3H), 0.98-0.97 (d, $J = 6.76$ Hz, 3H), 0.93-0.89 (m, 15H), 0.049-0.045 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 174.8, 110.4, 64.8, 61.4, 56.6, 56.0, 54.9, 51.3, 45.9, 32.0, 28.3, 25.9 ($CH_3 \times 3$), 23.6, 22.8, 22.4, 21.9, 20.3, 18.2, -5.6, -5.8 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 3019, 1730, 1215, 756, 669, 484\text{ cm}^{-1}$; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for $C_{22}H_{48}NO_5Si^+$ $[M+H]^+$ 434.3302, found: 434.3298.

[0098] *N,N*-diisobutyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (2k):



[0099] The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N,N*-diisobutylhex-1-en-1-amine (1k) (0.105 mg, 0.5 mmol). After 5 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2k** as a light yellowish oil (85 mg, 62% yield); $R_f = 0.65$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 4.22-4.21 (d, $J = 4.67$ Hz, 1H), 3.371-3.368 (m, 6H), 2.59-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.34-2.17 (m, 4H), 1.66-1.49 (m, 3H), 1.45-1.24 (m, 5H), 0.90-0.84

(m, 15H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 107.8, 61.6, 60.6 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 54.8 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 29.8, 27.2 ($\text{CH} \times 2$), 26.6, 23.0, 21.0 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 20.8 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 14.1 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 2955, 1456, 1215, 756, 669, 494 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Deuterium Labelling Experiment

[00100] **4-(dicyclohexylamino)butyl-D8 acetate (1l)**: The product was prepared by above general procedure (Y. H. Ju, R. S. Varma, *Green Chem.*, **2004**, *6*, 219-221; Y. H. Ju, R. S. Varma, *J. Org. Chem.*, **2006**, *71*, 135-141) to afford product as colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.48-2.43 (m, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.71-1.64 (m, 8H), 1.57-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.23-1.12 (m, 8H), 1.06-0.97 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 171.1, 57.8 ($\text{CH} \times 2$), 31.7 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.4 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 4$), 26.2 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 20.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{26}\text{D}_8\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 304.3092, found: 304.3089;

Figure 2(A).

[00101] **3-(dicyclohexylamino)-4,4-dimethoxybutyl-D5 acetate (2l)**: The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing 4-(dicyclohexylamino)butyl-D8 acetate (1l) (0.151 g, 0.5 mmol). After 24 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; triethylamine/ethyl acetate/hexane = 0.1:1:100) to afford the desired product **2l** as a light yellowish oil (86 mg, 48% yield); $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 0.74H), 2.72-2.66 (m, 2H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.69 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.54 (m, 4H), 1.50-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.16 (m, 8H), 1.04-0.94 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 171.2, 56.4 ($\text{CH} \times 2$), 54.2 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$), 52.8, 34.4

(CH₂ x 2), 34.3 (CH₂ x 2), 26.72 (CH₂ x 2), 26.69 (CH₂ x 2), 25.9 (CH₂ x 2), 21.1 ppm;

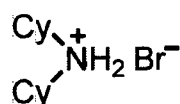
FTIR (neat): $\nu = 2930, 1215, 754, 669, 494 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for

$\text{C}_{20}^{13}\text{H}_{33}\text{D}_5\text{NO}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 361.3115, found: 361.3109; **Figure 2(B).**

Isolation of the Intermediate

[00102] *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine **1a** (0.118 g, 0.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuBr₂ (28 mg, 0.125 mmol), and TMEDA (29 mg, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (0.2 mL)/acetonitrile (2.0 mL) in air at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C using O₂ balloon until *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine **1a** was completely converted by TLC detection. A white solid (about 10 mg, about 8% yield) was isolated from the reaction mixture by a simple filtration and washed using MeCN (1 mL x 3). Then the white solid was dissolved in methanol, hexane was added into it, and solvent was evaporated to obtain the crystal (Cy₂NH₂Br).

[00103] **Dicyclohexylammonium bromide:**



¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 400 MHz) δ 3.23-3.18 (m, 2H), 2.09-2.07 (m, 4H), 1.90-1.86 (m, 4H), 1.75-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.20 (m, 10H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 100 MHz) δ 54.6 (CH x 2), 30.6 (CH₂ x 4), 26.2 (CH₂ x 2), 25.5 (CH₂ x 4) ppm.

Results and Discussion

[00104] When *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine **1a** was subjected to copper (II) bromide and oxygen in methanol/acetonitrile at 40 °C, product α -amino acetal **2a** in low yield (11%) (Table 1, entry 2) was unexpectedly obtained. The structure of **2a** was confirmed by single crystal X-ray analysis (see below). Most of the substrate **1a** was converted into *N,N*-dicyclohexylformamide (62%) (Table 1, entry 2). The reaction did not proceed without copper catalyst (Table 1, entry 1). Since nitrogen donor ligands is known to play an important role in dioxygen activation, a series of nitrogen donor ligands were tested in this reaction. It was found out that *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA) was the best ligand for this reaction to suppress the formation of *N,N*-dicyclohexylformamide, affording the desired α -amino acetals **2a** in 51% isolated yield when the TMEDA/copper (II) bromide ratio was 2:1 (Table 1, entry 3). It is noteworthy that the reaction proceeded even under air without a significant decrease in yield (Compare Table 1, entry 4 with Table 1, entry 17). Among the various solvents screened, acetonitrile emerged as the best solvent for this reaction, generating the desired product in 51% yield (Table 1, entry 3). Other solvents such as methanol, 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were also screened, but in all cases, the desired α -amino acetal **2a** was obtained in lower yield (Table 1, entries 5-7).

[00105] Other copper catalysts were also screened (Table 1, entries 3, 8-15). CuI catalyzed the reaction sluggishly to afford the desired product **2a** and **3a** in 35% and 17% yields, respectively (Table 1, entry 13). Other copper salts showed low or even no catalytic activities for this reaction (Table 1, entries 8-12, 14-15). Notably, among the various copper salts investigated, copper(II) was found to exhibit better catalytic activity than copper (I) having the same anion, and the order of the catalytic activity of the anion among copper salts was found to be I > Br > X (Cl, OAc, and so on). We also found that

the best volume ratio of methanol to acetonitrile was 1:4, and 40 °C was the most suitable temperature for this reaction by examining the effect of the volume ratio of MeOH/MeCN and temperature on the yield of α -amino acetal **2a** (Table 1, entries 5, 16-19). Therefore, our optimal reaction conditions for the rearrangement of tertiary amines were as follows: the reaction was carried out in oxygen atmosphere at 40 °C using 25 mol% of copper(II) bromide and 50 mol% of TMEDA as the catalytic system, the volume ratio of methanol to acetonitrile was 1:4.

[00106] Table 1 shows the optimization of the reaction conditions for the reaction scheme shown in Figure 1(A).

Table 1: Optimization of Reaction Conditions of Scheme Shown in Figure 1(A)

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	T [°C]	t [h]	Yield [%] ^[b]	
					2a	3a
1	-	MeCN	40	48	0	0
2 ^[c]	CuBr ₂	MeCN	40	48	11	0
3	CuBr ₂	MeCN	40	48	51	trace
4 ^[d, e]	CuBr₂	MeCN	40	6	58	trace
5	CuBr ₂	MeOH	40	48	23	trace
6	CuBr ₂	DCE	40	48	17	trace
7	CuBr ₂	THF	40	48	trace	0
8	CuCl ₂	MeCN	40	48	trace	0
9	Cu(OAc) ₂	MeCN	40	48	0	0
10	Cu(OTf) ₂	MeCN	40	48	0	0
11	Cu(acac) ₂	MeCN	40	48	0	0
12	Cu(MeCN) ₄ PF ₆	MeCN	40	48	trace	0
13	CuI	MeCN	40	96	35	17
14	CuBr	MeCN	40	48	trace	0
15	CuCl	MeCN	40	48	0	0
16 ^[f]	CuBr ₂	MeCN	25	96	42	trace
17 ^[f]	CuBr₂	MeCN	40	5	66	trace
18 ^[f]	CuBr ₂	MeCN	60	5	57	trace
19 ^[e]	CuBr ₂	MeCN	40	5	63	trace

[00107] Reaction conditions: *N,N*-dicyclohexylbutylamine (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), copper catalyst (0.25 equiv.), TMEDA (0.5 equiv.), MeOH (0.2 mL), solvent (2 mL), under O₂ atmosphere (1 atm). [b] Isolated yields based on *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-

butylamine. [c] The reaction was performed without TMEDA, affording the byproduct *N,N*-dicyclohexylformamide with 62% yield. [d] The reaction was carried out in air. [f] The reaction was performed using 0.5 mL methanol. [e] The reaction was performed using 1 mL methanol.

Table 2: Oxidative Rearrangement of Tertiary Amines

Entry	Substrate			Product	<i>t</i> [h]	Yield [%] ^[b]
	R ¹	R ²	R ³			
1	Cy	Cy	H	2a	5	66
2	Cy	Cy	Et	2b	6	65
3	Cy	Cy	<i>n</i> -Octyl	2c	24	61
4	Cy	Cy	CO ₂ Me	2d	12	60
5	Cy	Cy	CH ₂ CH ₂ Br	2e	6	54
6	Cy	Cy	CH=CH ₂	2f	24	61
7	Cy	Cy	CH ₂ NPhth	2g	20	56
8	Cy	Cy	CH ₂ OAc	2h	20	55
9	Cy	^{<i>i</i>} Pr	H	2i	24	45

Reaction conditions: *N,N*-dicyclohexylbutylamine (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), copper(II) bromide (0.25 equiv.), TMEDA (0.5 equiv.), MeOH (0.5 mL), MeCN (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields based on *N,N*-dicyclohexyl-*n*-butylamine.

[00108] Representative examples of tertiary amines for this oxidative rearrangement investigated are shown in Table 2. Almost all the substrates containing R¹ = R² = Cy provided the desired products in good yields under the standard reaction conditions (Table 2, entries 1-8). The tertiary amine with long carbon chain was also suitable for this reaction (Table 2, entry 3) although the reaction time was much longer. The reaction tolerated a wide array of functional groups including ester group (Table 2, entries 4, 8), bromo group (Table 2, entry 5), double bond (Table 2, entry 6), amino group (Table 2, entry 7). It was found that the substrates of R¹ and R² groups with more branched carbon chain (Table 2, entry 1) had better reactivity for this reaction than those with linear carbon chain (Table 2, entry 9).

[00109] The tertiary amine with a chiral centre was utilized for this reaction, affording the desired product in a moderate yield of 52 % with two diastereomers which can be easily separated by silica gel column chromatography (Scheme 1, **Figure 3**).

[00110] The rearrangement can be rationalized in terms of the proposed mechanism shown in Scheme 2, **Figure 3**. Firstly, copper-dioxygen species were thought to function as one-electron oxidizing agents toward tertiary amine, enamine **D** and intermediates **B** and **G**. Initially, copper species $[LCu^{n+1}]$ was formed in the catalytic systems of copper salt, molecular oxygen and TMEDA as a bidentate ligand. After electron transfer, deprotonation and electron transfer processes, iminium ion **C** was produced. Subsequently, iminium ion **C** was converted into enamine **D** after deprotonation. Next, electron transfer yielded the cationic radical species **E** and **F**. Nucleophilic attack by methanol on the intermediate **F** and subsequent electron transfer gave the corresponding aziridinium ion **H**. Upon opening of the three-membered ring to form oxocarbenium ion **I**, attack by an additional methanol molecule on the oxocarbenium ion **I** generates the desired product.

[00111] Of mechanistic interests are the followings: (I) the formation of the iminium ion **B** was proved by the trapping experiment. In the process of carrying out the experiment (Table 1, entries 3, 6-7, 16), it was found that a white solid with the molecular structure Cy_2NH_2Br (confirmed by X-ray analysis) was isolated from the reaction mixture by a simple filtration with about 8% yield, indicating that the iminium ion **B** was the reaction intermediate. (II) Enamine is also thought to be the reaction intermediate. In order to prove it, enamine **1k** was synthesized for this reaction. Gratifyingly, the desired product **2k** was obtained with 62% isolated yield (Scheme 3, **Figure 3**). (III) To explore how the rearrangement occurred and which C-H bonds of long carbon chain were activated, substrate **1l** for this reaction (Scheme 4, **Figure 4**)

was synthesized. Interestingly, under the standard reaction conditions, compound **11** gave product **21** in about 48% yield. Especially noteworthy was that 74% hydrogen atom was observed from ^1H NMR spectrum. This result implied that the product was formed via the below pathway: upon opening of the three-membered ring of aziridinium ion **H** to form oxocarbenium ion **I**, attack by an additional methanol molecule on the oxocarbenium ion **I** generates the desired product. The reason for H/D exchange may be due to deprotonation and protonation of the reversible steps **2** and **4** (Scheme 2, **Figure 3**). (IV) When the reaction was performed in the presence of CD_3OD using compound **2a** as the substrate under the similar reaction conditions, only 67% of **2a** was recovered, and the other three byproducts were also produced although the yield was very low (Scheme 5, **Figure 4**). This result showed that most of steps in this oxidative rearrangement reaction was reversible, and also explained why these byproducts were produced.

Example 2: Copper-Catalyzed C-H Bond Amination for Direct Synthesis of α -Amino Acetals from Secondary Amines and Aliphatic Aldehydes

In this example, a copper-catalyzed C-H bond amination reaction for direct synthesis of α -amino acetals from secondary amines with readily removable protecting groups and aliphatic aldehydes is provided. Furthermore, optically active α -amino acetals were obtained by studying the effect of other chirality elements in the molecule and chiral copper complexes on the reaction. In summary, a copper-catalyzed C-H bond amination reaction for direct synthesis of α -amino acetals from secondary amines with readily removable protecting groups and aliphatic aldehydes was described. Compared with expensive metal catalyst and stoichiometric metal oxidants employed in the traditional

methods for C-H bond oxidation, this catalytic system has the obvious advantages of mild reaction conditions and cheap catalysis and oxidant.

General Procedures

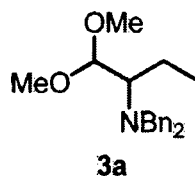
[00112] All reactions were carried out without exclusion of air or moisture unless otherwise stated. Copper salts, and tert-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) (TBHP) were purchased from commercial suppliers, and used directly as received. Commercial solvents and reagents were used without further purification. Secondary amines **1(b', j')** (C. R. Smith, T. V. RajanBabu, *Org. Lett.*, **2008**, 10(8), 1657-1659; S. Mukherjee, B. List, *J. Am. Soc. Chem.*, **2007**, 129(37), 11336), enamine **1k'** (D. M. Hodgson, C. D. Bray, N. D. Kindon, N. J. Reynolds, S. J. Coote, J. M. Um, and K. N. Houk, *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, 74, 1019-1028), and aliphatic aldehydes **2(f', h')** (M. Huckstep, R. J. K. Taylop, *Synthesis* **1982**, 881-882; S. Ciblat, J. Kim, C. A. Stewart, J. Z. Wang, P. Forgione, D. Clyne, L. A. Paquette, *Org. Lett.*, **2007**, 719) were synthesized. Reactions were monitored through thin layer chromatography [Merck 60 F254 precoated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness)]. Subsequent to elution, spots were visualized using UV radiation (254 nm) on Spectroline Model ENF-24061/F 254 nm. Further visualization was possible using basic solution of potassium permanganate or acidic solution of ceric molybdate as stain, followed by heating on a hot plate. Flash chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel 60 with distilled solvents. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR Prestige-21 FT-IR. Liquid samples were examined as film between NaCl salt plates. HRMS spectra were recorded on a Waters Q-ToF Premier Spectrometer. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker Avance 300, 400 and 500 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts for ¹H NMR spectra are reported as δ

in units of parts per million (ppm) downfield from SiMe_4 (δ 0.0) and relative to the signal of chloroform-*d* (δ 7.260, singlet). Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet); brs (broad singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); dd (doublets of doublet); ddd (doublets of doublets of doublet); td (triplet of doublet); m (multiplets); ddt (doublet of doublet of triplet) and etc. Coupling constants are reported as a *J* value in Hz. Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (^{13}C NMR) are reported as δ in units of parts per million (ppm) downfield from SiMe_4 (δ 0.0) and relative to the signal of chloroform-*d* (δ 77.00, triplet).

General Experimental Procedure for Copper-Catalyzed C-H Bond Amination for Direct Synthesis of α -Amino Acetals from Secondary Amines and Aliphatic Aldehydes

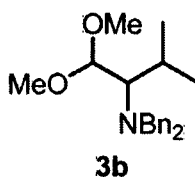
[00113] Typical procedure for copper-catalyzed C-H bond amination for direct synthesis of α -amino acetals from secondary amines and aliphatic aldehydes (dibenzylamine **1a'** and butyraldehyde **2a'** as a model system) is illustrated in **Figure 1(B)**: tert-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) (0.1 mL, ~0.55 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuI (38 mg, 0.2 mmol), dibenzylamine **1a'** (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and butyraldehyde **2a'** (54 mg, 0.75 mmol) in methanol (0.4 mL)/acetonitrile (2.0 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C until dibenzylamine **1a'** was completely converted by TLC detection. The resulting reaction mixture was mixed with a small amount of silica gel and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3a** as a light yellowish oil (0.125 g, 80% yield).

[00114] *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-amine (**3a**):



$R_f = 0.70$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.38-4.37 (d, $J = 5.16$ Hz, 1H), 3.82-3.66 (m, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.60 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.44 (m, 2H), 0.94-0.91 (t, $J = 7.43$ Hz, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 140.7 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.4, 59.4, 54.8, 54.44 (CH_2 x 2), 54.38, 19.5, 12.0 ppm; **FTIR** (neat): $\nu = 3015, 1452, 1215, 754, 700, 494\text{ cm}^{-1}$; **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 314.2120, found: 314.2119.

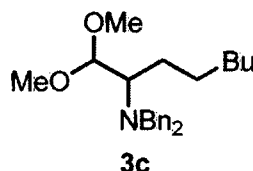
[00115] *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-3-methylbutan-2-amine (**3b**):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and 3-methylbutanal (**2b'**) (64 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3b** as a light yellowish oil (0.108 g, 66% yield); $R_f = 0.76$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.51-4.50 (d, $J = 4.28$ Hz, 1H), 3.91-3.62 (m, 4H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.46-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.97 (m, 1H), 0.99-0.98 (t, $J = 6.82$ Hz, 3H), 0.84-0.82 (t, $J = 6.68$ Hz, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 140.7 (C x 2), 129.2 (CH x

4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.1, 62.5, 55.5 (CH₂ x 2), 55.2, 54.8, 27.2, 20.9, 20.7 ppm; **FTIR (neat):** ν = 3015, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C₂₁H₃₀NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 328.2277, found: 328.2273.

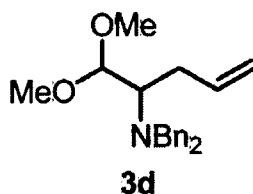
[00116] *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyoctan-2-amine (3c):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and octanal (**2c'**) (96 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3c** as a light yellowish oil (0.129 g, 70% yield); R_f = 0.77 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1);

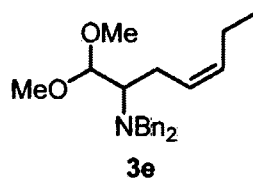
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.37-4.36 (d, J = 5.03 Hz, 1H), 3.81-3.65 (m, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.36 (m, 3H), 1.25-1.17 (m, 5H), 1.15-1.08 (m, 2H), 0.88-0.85 (t, J = 7.07 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.8 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.5, 57.4, 54.8, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 54.3, 31.9, 29.4, 26.9, 26.5, 22.7, 14.1 ppm; **FTIR (neat):** ν = 3015, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C₂₄H₃₆NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 370.2746, found: 370.2743.

[00117] *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxypent-4-en-2-amine (3d):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and pent-4-enal (**2d'**) (63 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3d** as a light yellowish oil (0.102 g, 63% yield); R_f = 0.70 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 2H), 5.89-5.79 (m, 1H), 5.08-5.00 (m, 2H), 4.39-4.38 (d, J = 4.93 Hz, 1H), 3.80-3.71 (m, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.89-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.26 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 140.5 (C x 2), 137.8, 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.7 (CH x 2), 115.5, 107.0, 57.8, 54.7, 54.5, 54.4 (CH_2 x 2), 31.2 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 3015, 1454, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2^+$ [M+H] $^+$ 326.2120, found: 326.2114.

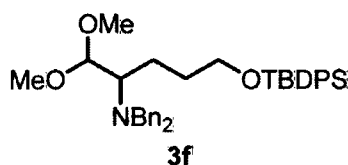
[00118] (Z)-N,N-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyhept-4-en-2-amine (**3e**):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and (Z)-hept-4-enal (**2e'**) (84 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3e** as a light yellowish oil (0.115 g, 65% yield); R_f = 0.72 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H),

7.24-7.18 (m, 2H), 5.44-5.36 (m, 2H), 4.38-4.37 (d, $J = 4.73$ Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.71 (m, 4H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 2H), 0.95-0.91 (t, $J = 7.53$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 140.6 (C x 2), 131.9, 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 127.6, 126.7 (CH x 2), 107.3, 58.0, 54.8, 54.6, 54.5 (CH_2 x 2), 24.2, 20.7, 14.2 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 3017$, 1454, 1215, 1072, 756, 699, 498 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_2^+$ [M+H] $^+$ 354.2433, found: 354.2443.

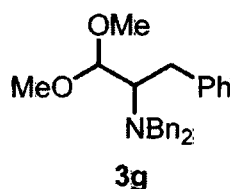
[00119] *N,N*-dibenzyl-5-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-1,1-dimethoxypentan-2-amine (3f):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and 5-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)pentanal (**2f'**) (0.255 g, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3f** as a light yellowish oil (0.230 g, 79% yield); $R_f = 0.72$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.66-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 10H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 6H), 4.38-4.37 (d, $J = 5.42$ Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.66 (m, 4H), 3.61-3.45 (m, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.40 (m, 3H), 1.04 (s, 9H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 140.6 (C x 2), 135.6 (CH x 4), 134.2 (C x 2), 129.4 (CH x 2), 129.1 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 127.5 (CH x 4), 126.7 (CH x 2), 107.4, 63.9, 57.4, 54.7, 54.5 (CH_2 x 2),

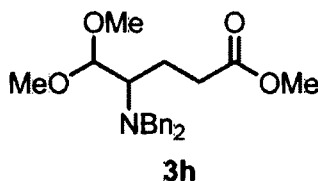
54.2, 30.3, 26.9 (CH₃ x 3), 22.8, 19.2 ppm; **FTIR (neat):** ν = 3017, 1215, 1111, 758, 494 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C₃₇H₄₈NO₃Si⁺ [M+H]⁺ 582.3403, found: 582.3401.

[00120] ***N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-3-phenylpropan-2-amine (3g):**



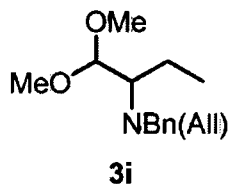
The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and 3-phenylpropanal (**2g'**) (0.100 g, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3g** as a light yellowish oil (0.129 mg, 69% yield); R_f = 0.72 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.27-7.01 (m, 15H), 4.42-4.41 (d, J = 4.38 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 4H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.13-3.08 (m, 1H), 2.88-2.86 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.8, 140.3 (C x 2), 129.6 (CH x 2), 128.7 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 6), 126.5 (CH x 2), 125.3, 107.2, 59.6, 54.9, 54.8, 54.4 (CH₂ x 2), 32.6 ppm; **FTIR (neat):** ν = 3019, 1495, 1454, 1215, 1072, 756, 698, 496 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C₂₅H₃₀NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 376.2277, found: 376.2278.

[00121] **methyl 4-(dibenzylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (3h):**



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a'**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and methyl 5-oxopentanoate (**2h'**) (97 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3h** as a light yellowish oil (0.124 g, 67% yield); $R_f = 0.54$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.33-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 2H), 4.44-4.42 (d, $J = 5.53$ Hz, 1H), 3.82-3.63 (m, 4H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.363-3.359 (m, 6H), 2.78-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.26 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.70 (m, 2H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 174.2, 140.2 (C x 2), 129.1 (CH x 4), 128.1 (CH x 4), 126.8 (CH x 2), 106.7, 56.6, 54.8, 54.2 (CH_2 x 2), 53.6, 51.3, 31.1, 21.9 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 3017, 1454, 1215, 758, 494\text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 372.2175, found: 372.2178.

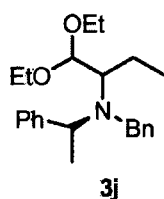
[00122] *N*-allyl-*N*-benzyl-1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-amine (**3i**):



The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-benzylprop-2-en-1-amine (**1b'**) (74 mg, 0.5 mmol), and butyraldehyde (**2a'**) (55 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3i** as a light yellowish oil (92 mg, 69% yield); $R_f = 0.72$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 5.85-5.75 (m, 1H), 5.17-5.03 (m, 2H), 4.32-4.31 (d, $J = 5.35$ Hz,

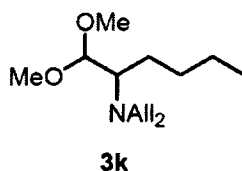
1H), 3.86-3.65 (m, 2H), 3.36 (s, 6H), 3.28-3.15 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.67 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.41 (m, 2H), 0.97-0.94 (t, $J = 7.41$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 141.1, 138.1, 128.7 (CH x 2), 128.0 (CH x 2), 126.5, 116.1, 107.3, 60.4, 54.7, 54.5, 54.4, 53.5, 19.7, 12.0 ppm; FTIR (neat): $\nu = 3017, 1452, 1215, 1065, 756, 494\text{ cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 264.1964, found: 264.1965.

[00123] *N*-benzyl-1,1-diethoxy-*N*-((*R*)-1-phenylethyl)butan-2-amine (3j):



$R_f = 0.71$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.36-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 2H), 4.48-4.47 (d, $J = 4.20$ Hz, 1H), 4.11-4.05 (q, $J = 6.86, 13.74$ Hz, 1H), 3.99-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.75-3.67 (m, 1H), 3.63-3.55 (m, 1H), 3.48-3.35 (m, 2H), 2.75-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.56-1.46 (m, 1H), 1.39-1.31 (m, 4H), 1.23-1.19 (t, $J = 7.02$ Hz, 3H), 1.15-1.12 (t, $J = 7.04$ Hz, 3H), 0.77-0.73 (t, $J = 7.43$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.9, 142.5, 128.8 (CH x 2), 127.90 (CH x 2), 127.89 (CH x 2), 127.87 (CH x 2), 126.5, 126.3, 106.7, 63.4, 63.3, 60.2, 57.6, 50.9, 19.6, 18.7, 15.5, 15.2, 12.4 ppm.

[00124] *N,N*-diallyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (3k):

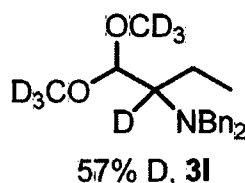


N,N-diallylhex-1-en-1-amine **1k'** (90 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuBr_2 (28 mg, 0.125 mmol), and TMEDA (29 mg, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (0.5

mL)/acetonitrile (2.0 mL) in air at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C using O₂ balloon for 2 hours. The resulting reaction mixture was mixed with a small amount of silica gel and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3k** as a light yellowish oil (85 mg, 70% yield); R_f = 0.70 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.83-5.73 (m, 2H), 5.16-5.03 (m, 4H), 4.24-4.23 (d, J = 5.14 Hz, 1H), 3.362-3.359 (m, 6H), 3.29-3.12 (m, 4H), 2.80-2.76 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.36 (m, 3H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 3H), 0.90-0.87 (t, J = 7.16 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 138.2 (CH x 2), 115.8 (CH₂ x 2), 107.3, 59.1, 54.8, 54.6, 53.5 (CH₂ x 2), 29.4, 26.3, 22.8, 14.1 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 2955, 1468, 1215, 1070, 756, 699, 496 cm⁻¹.

Deuterium Labelling Experiment

[00125] *N,N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-D₆-butan-D₁-2-amine (**3l**):



R_f = 0.70 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.38-4.37 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.66 (m, 4H), 2.64-2.60 (m, 0.43H), 1.59-1.44 (m, 2H), 0.94-0.91 (t, J = 7.43 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.7 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.2, 59.4, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 19.54, 19.43, 12.03, 11.99 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 3015,

1215, 754, 700, 494 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{33}\text{D}_5\text{NO}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$
361.3115, found: 361.3109.

Results and Discussion

[00126] In the initial study for the optimization of the reaction conditions about the C-H bond amination reaction to directly synthesize α -amino acetals, dibenzylamine, butyraldehyde, and methanol were selected as the model reaction system. The results are summarized in Table 3. When we subjected dibenzylamine **1a'** to copper(I) iodide and oxygen in methanol/acetonitrile at 40 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, no product **3a** was observed (Table 3, entry 2). Interestingly, most of the substrate **1a'** was converted into the desired product **3a** with 80% isolated yield when tert-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) was used as the oxidant (Table 3, entry 3). It was important to note that the reaction did not proceed without copper catalyst (Table 3, entry 1). Other peroxides such as di-tert-butyl peroxide, tert-butyl benzoylperoxide were also investigated, generating the desired product **2a'** with not more than 50% isolated yield (Table 3, entries 4-5). It is noteworthy that the reaction proceeded even at room temperature without a significant decrease in yield (Compare Table 3, entry 3 with Table 3, entry 6).

Table 3: Optimization of Reaction Conditions of Scheme Shown in Figure 1(B)

Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant	Solvent	T [°C]	t [h]	Yield [%] ^[b]
1	—	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	0
2	CuI	O ₂ or air (1 atm)	MeCN	40	24	0
3	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	80
4	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOO <i>t</i> Bu	MeCN	40	24	trace
5	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOBz	MeCN	40	24	50
6	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	20	96	75
7 ^c	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	72	57
8 ^d	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	50
9	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeOH	40	24	50
10	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	DCE	40	24	48
11	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	THF	40	24	53
12	CuI	<i>t</i> BuOOH	DMSO	40	24	51
13	CuBr	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	55
14	CuCl	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	14
15	CuBr ₂	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	67
16	CuCl ₂	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	25	24	9
17	Cu(OAc) ₂	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	0
18	Cu(OTf) ₂	<i>t</i> BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	trace

Reaction conditions: Dibenzylamine (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyraldehyde (0.75 mmol), copper catalyst (0.4 equiv.), oxidant (1.1 equiv.), methanol (0.4 mL), solvent (2 mL). ^b Isolated yields based on dibenzylamine. ^c The reaction was performed using 0.2 equiv. CuI. ^d The reaction was performed using 0.2 mL MeOH.

[00127] When the amount of copper (I) iodide was reduced from 0.4 equiv to 0.2 equiv (Table 3, entries 3, 7), CuI sluggishly catalyzed the reaction to afford the desired product in 57% yield although it took longer time (72 h) for the reaction (Table 3, entry 7). It was also found that the best volume ratio of methanol to acetonitrile was 1:5, and 40 °C was the most suitable temperature for this reaction by examining the effect of the volume ratio of MeOH/MeCN and temperature on the yield of α -amino acetal **3a** (Table 3, entries 3, 6, 8). Among the various solvents screened, acetonitrile emerged as the best solvent for this reaction, generating the desired product in 80% isolated yield (Table 3, entry 3). Other solvents such as methanol, 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), tetrahydrofuran

(THF), and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) were also studied, but in all cases, the desired α -amino acetal **3a** was obtained in about 50% isolated yield (Table 3, entries 9-12). Other copper catalysts were also examined (Table 1, entries 13-18). CuBr and CuBr₂ also can catalyze the reaction to afford the desired product **3a** in moderate yield under the same conditions (Table 3, entries 13, 15). Other copper salts such as CuCl, CuCl₂, Cu(OAc)₂, and Cu(OTf)₂ showed low or even no catalytic activities for this reaction (Table 3, entries 14, 16-18). Therefore, the optimal reaction conditions for C-H bond amination reaction to directly synthesize α -amino acetals were as follows: the reaction was carried out at 40 °C using 40 mol% of copper (I) iodide as the catalysis, tert-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) was used as the oxidant, and the volume ratio of methanol to acetonitrile was 1:5.

**Table 4: Oxidative Rearrangement of Secondary Amines and Aliphatic Aldehydes
via C-H Bond Amination**

Entry	Product	Yield (%) ^a	Time (h)
1		80%, 24 h, 3a	
2		66%, 24 h, 3b	
3		70%, 24 h, 3c	
4		63%, 24 h, 3d	
5		65%, 48 h, 3e	
6		79%, 48 h, 3f	
7		69%, 48 h, 3g	
8		67%, 48 h, 3h	
9		69%, 24 h, 3i	

Reaction conditions: secondary amine (0.5 mmol), aliphatic aldehyde (0.75 mmol), copper(I) iodide (0.4 equiv.), tert-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) (~1.1 equiv.), methanol (0.4 mL), MeCN (2 mL). ^b Isolated yields based on secondary amine.

[00128] Representative examples of aliphatic aldehydes for this C-H bond amination reaction investigated are shown in Table 4. Almost all the substrates containing different functional groups provided the desired products in good yields under the standard reaction conditions (Table 4, entries 1-8). The aliphatic aldehydes with long carbon chain or more branched carbon chain were also suitable for this reaction (Table 4, entries 2-3) although the yield slightly decreased under the same reaction conditions (Compare Table 2, entries 2-3 with Table 2, entry 1). The reaction also can tolerate a wide array of functional groups including double bond (Table 4, entries 4-5), tert-butyl diphenylsilyl (TBDPS) group (Table 4, entry 6), phenyl group (Table 4, entry 7), ester group (Table 4, entry 8). For the scope of the secondary amines, some secondary amines with readily removable protecting groups such as an allyl or a benzyl group were chosen for this C-H bond amination reaction. As shown in Table 4, entries 1, 9, this type of substrates were also suitable for this reaction with good yields.

[00129] For enantioselective synthesis of α -amino acetals, two strategies were adopted for it. Firstly, the effect of other chirality elements in the molecule including chiral amino protection groups, chiral aliphatic aldehydes, and chiral alcohols was examined for this C-H bond amination reaction. For example, the secondary amine with a chiral centre was utilized for this reaction, affording the desired product in a moderate yield of 53 % with two diastereomers which can be easily separated by silica gel column chromatography (Scheme 6, **Figure 5**). Another strategy is that chiral metal complexes were used for the catalytic enantioselective C-H amination reaction, affording the desired product with good yields and enantioselectivity.

[00130] Enamine is also thought to be the reaction intermediate. On the basis of this, a series of enamines were developed for copper-catalyzed oxidative rearrangement for direct synthesis of α -amino acetals in air or oxygen. For example, enamine **1k'** was synthesized for this reaction. The desired product **3k** was obtained with 70% isolated yield (Scheme 7, **Figure 5**).

[00131] To demonstrate the hypothesis that iminium ion and enamine, and the aziridinium ion with three-membered ring were thought to be the important intermediates for direct synthesis of α -amino acetals from secondary amine and aliphatic aldehydes, some experiments were carried out. Firstly, two deuterated labeling experiments were performed using CD₃OD instead of MeOH (Scheme 8, eqs. 1-2, **Figure 6**), which affords similar results with the synthesis α -amino acetals via oxidative rearrangement of tertiary amine. Interestingly, α -methyl aliphatic aldehydes was used for this reaction, no desired product was obtained (Scheme 8, eq. 3, **Figure 6**).

[00132]

[00133] By "comprising" it is meant including, but not limited to, whatever follows the word "comprising". Thus, use of the term "comprising" indicates that the listed elements are required or mandatory, but that other elements are optional and may or may not be present.

[00134] By "consisting of" is meant including, and limited to, whatever follows the phrase "consisting of". Thus, the phrase "consisting of" indicates that the listed elements are required or mandatory, and that no other elements may be present.

[00135] The inventions illustratively described herein may suitably be practiced in the absence of any element or elements, limitation or limitations, not specifically disclosed herein. Thus, for example, the terms "comprising", "including", "containing", etc. shall be read expansively and without limitation. Additionally, the terms and

expressions employed herein have been used as terms of description and not of limitation, and there is no intention in the use of such terms and expressions of excluding any equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, but it is recognized that various modifications are possible within the scope of the invention claimed. Thus, it should be understood that although the present invention has been specifically disclosed by preferred embodiments and optional features, modification and variation of the inventions embodied therein herein disclosed may be resorted to by those skilled in the art, and that such modifications and variations are considered to be within the scope of this invention.

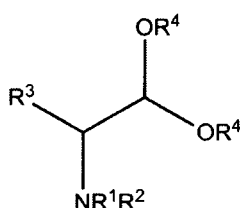
[00136] By “about” in relation to a given numerical value, such as for temperature and period of time, it is meant to include numerical values within 10% of the specified value.

[00137] The invention has been described broadly and generically herein. Each of the narrower species and sub-generic groupings falling within the generic disclosure also form part of the invention. This includes the generic description of the invention with a proviso or negative limitation removing any subject matter from the genus, regardless of whether or not the excised material is specifically recited herein.

[00138] Other embodiments are within the following claims and non-limiting examples. In addition, where features or aspects of the invention are described in terms of Markush groups, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention is also thereby described in terms of any individual member or subgroup of members of the Markush group.

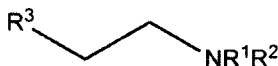
Claims

1. A method for the synthesis of an α -amino acetal, comprising
 - (i) oxidizing a tertiary amine in the presence of a copper catalyst, at least one oxidant and a solvent, or
 - (ii) reacting a secondary amine and an aliphatic aldehyde in the presence of a copper catalyst, at least one oxidant and a solvent.
2. The method of claim 1 for the synthesis of an α -amino acetal of formula I,



Formula I

wherein the method comprises oxidizing a tertiary amine of formula II

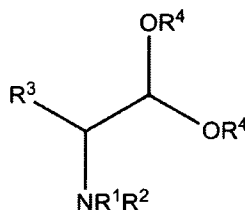


Formula II

in the presence of a copper catalyst, one or more alcohols of formula R^4OH , at least one oxidant and a solvent,

wherein each R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkenyl.

3. The method of claim 1 for the synthesis of an α -amino acetal of formula I,



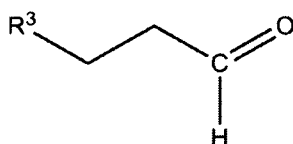
Formula I

wherein the method comprises reacting a secondary amine of formula III



Formula III

with an aliphatic aldehyde of formula IV

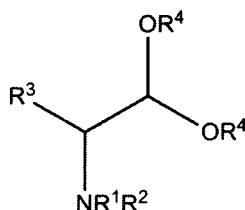


Formula IV

in the presence of a copper catalyst, one or more alcohols of formula R^4OH , at least one oxidant and a solvent,

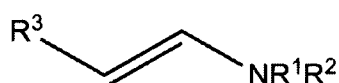
wherein each R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ cycloalkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ heterocycloalkenyl.

4. The method of claim 1 for the synthesis of an α -amino acetal of formula I,



Formula I

wherein the method comprises oxidizing an enamine of formula V



Formula V

in the presence of a copper catalyst, one or more alcohols of formula R^4OH , at least one oxidant and a solvent,

wherein each R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_{20} heterocycloalkenyl.

5. The method of any one of claims 1, 2 and 4, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a nitrogen donor ligand.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the nitrogen donor ligand is *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA).

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the molar ratio of copper catalyst:TMEDA is between about 1:1 and about 1:5.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the molar ratio of copper catalyst:TMEDA is about 1:2.
9. The method of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the copper catalyst is copper (II) halide or copper (I) halide.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the halide is iodide, bromide or chloride.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the copper catalyst is selected from the group consisting of CuBr_2 , CuI_2 , CuI , and CuBr .
12. The method of claim 2 or 4, wherein the copper catalyst is CuBr_2 or CuI_2 .
13. The method of claim 3, wherein the copper catalyst is CuI , CuBr or CuBr_2 .
14. The method of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the one or more alcohols are methanol or ethanol.
15. The method of any one of claims 1-14, wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$ cycloalkyl.
16. The method of any one of claims 1-15, wherein R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ alkyl.
17. The method of any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the solvent is an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile (MeCN), methanol (MeOH), 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), and mixtures thereof.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the solvent comprises a mixture of MeOH and MeCN .
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the solvent comprises a volume ratio of $\text{MeOH}:\text{MeCN}$ in a range of between about 1:1 and about 1:10.

- 20.** The method of claim **19**, wherein the solvent comprises a volume ratio of MeOH:MeCN in a range of about 1:4.
- 21.** The method of claim **19**, wherein the solvent comprises a volume ratio of MeOH:MeCN in a range of about 1:5.
- 22.** The method of any one of claims **1** to **21**, wherein the oxidant is selected from the group consisting of air, oxygen, a peroxide, and a mixture thereof.
- 23.** The method of claim **22**, wherein the peroxide is selected from the group consisting of tert-butyl hydroperoxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, tert-butyl benzoylperoxide, and a mixture thereof.
- 24.** The method of any one of claims **1** to **23**, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of less than 100 °C.
- 25.** The method of claim **24**, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of less than 60 °C.
- 26.** The method of claim **24**, wherein the reaction is carried out at about 40 °C.
- 27.** The method of claim **24**, wherein the reaction is carried out at room temperature.
- 28.** The method of any one of claims **1** to **27**, wherein the reaction is carried out at atmospheric pressure.
- 29.** The method of any one of claims **1** to **28**, wherein the reaction is carried out for a period of between about 1 and about 100 hours.
- 30.** The method of claim **29**, wherein the reaction is carried out for a period of between about 5 and about 48 hours.