Supporting Information

Dearomatizing Conversion of Pyrazines to 1,4-Dihydropyrazine Derivatives via Transition-Metal-Free Diboration, Silaboration, and Hydroboration

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1. General

All reactions were performed in a drybox under an atmosphere of nitrogen with magnetic stirring. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury-400 (400.44 MHz) or 400MR (399.88 MHz) spectrometers. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-A500 (125.65 MHz) spectrometer. ¹¹B NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury-400 (128.48 MHz) or 400MR (128.30 MHz) spectrometers. ¹H NMR data were reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, and m = multiplet), coupling constant (*J*), and integration. ¹³C NMR data were reported in ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane. ¹¹B NMR date were reported in ppm downfield from BF₃•OEt₂. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a JEOL JMS-SX102A (EI) spectrometer.

2. Materials

THF and pentane were dried and degassed by The Ultimate Solvent System (GlassContour). Bis(pinacolato)diboron (2) and 5,5,5',5'-tetramethyl-2,2'-bi-1,3,2-dioxaborinane (3) were purchased from Allychem and were purified by recrystalyzation before use. A silylboronic ester 6⁻¹ and pinacolborane (8)² and were synthesized by the method reported previously. Pyrazine (1a) (Aldrich), 2-methylpyrazine (1b), 2-pyrazinecarbonitrile (1e) (Wako), 2-methoxypyrazine (1c), methyl 2-pyrazinecarboxylate (1d), and 2,6-dimethylpyrazine (1f) (TCI) were used as received from commercial sources.

3. Diboration of Pyrazine (1a) with 2 (eq 1)

A Procedure for THF as a Solvent: In a drybox, pyrazine (1a, 36 mg, 0.45 mmol) and bis(pinacolato)diboron (2, 103 mg, 0.40 mmol) were placed in a screw-capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar. THF (0.4 mL) was added to the vial and the vial was capped by a screw cap. The

⁽¹⁾ T. Ohmura, K. Masuda, H. Furukawa, M. Suginome, Organometallics 2007, 26, 1291.

solution was stirred magnetically in the drybox at room temperature. After 2 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to remove volatiles including remaining **1a**. The N,N'-diboryl-1,4-dihydropyrazine **3a** (126 mg, 93%) was obtained as a white solid with high purity.

A Procedure for Pentane as a Solvent: In a drybox, pyrazine (1a, 35 mg, 0.44 mmol) and bis(pinacolato)diboron (2, 103 mg, 0.40 mmol) were placed in a screw-capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar. Pentane (0.4 mL) was added to the vial and the vial was capped by a screw cap. The solution was stirred magnetically in the drybox at room temperature. A white solid was precipitated. After 2 h the solution was removed by decantation, and the solid was washed with pentane (0.2 mL x 2) and dried in vacuo. The *N*,*N*'-diboryl-1,4-dihydropyrazine **3a** (122 mg, 90%) was obtained as a white solid with high purity.

1,4-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (3a)



3a: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.13 (s, 4H), 1.19 (s, 24H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 113.2, 83.0, 24.5. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.8. HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₂₈B₂N₂O₄ (M⁺): 334.2235, found: 334.2249.

4. Diboration of Substituted Pyrazines 1b-1f (Table 1)

General Procedure for Diboration of Substituted Pyrazines: In a drybox, pyrazine **1** (0.44 mmol) and bis(pinacolato)diboron (**2**, 102 mg, 0.40 mmol) were placed in a screw-capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar. Pentane (0.4 mL) was added to the vial and the vial was capped by a screw cap. The solution was stirred magnetically in the drybox at room temperature. A white solid was precipitated. After 2 h the solution was removed by decantation, and the solid was washed with pentane (0.2 mL x 2) and dried in vacuo. The *N*,*N*'-diboryl-1,4-dihydropyrazine **3** was obtained with high purity.

⁽²⁾ C. E. Tucker, J. Davidson, P. Knochel, J. Org. Chem. 1992, 57, 3484.

2-Methyl-1,4-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (3b, entry 1)



According to the general procedure, 2-methylpyrazine (**1b**, 45 mg, 0.48 mmol) was reacted with **2** (103 mg, 0.40 mmol). The product **3b** (125 mg, 89%) was obtained as a white solid. **3b:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.36 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (quintet, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.19 (s, 12H), 1.18 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 121.9, 114.3, 113.2, 110.4, 82.9, 82.3, 24.5, 24.4, 18.2. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.0. HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₃₀B₂N₂O₄ (M⁺): 348.2392, found: 348.2397.

2-Methoxy-1,4-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (3c, entry 2)



According to the general procedure, 2-methoxypyrazine (**1c**, 48 mg, 0.44 mmol) was reacted with **2** (103 mg, 0.40 mmol). The product **3c** (119 mg, 81%) was obtained as a white solid. **3c**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.04 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 24H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.7, 116.1, 115.9, 83.2, 53.0, 47.5, 25.1, 24.3. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.1. HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₃₀B₂N₂O₅ (M⁺): 364.2341, found: 364.2331.

Methyl 1,4-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine-2-carboxylate (3d, entry 3)



According to the general procedure, methyl 2-pyrazinecarboxylate (1d, 61 mg, 0.44 mmol) was reacted with 2 (108 mg, 0.42 mmol). The product 3d (156 mg, 93%) was obtained as a yellow solid. 3d:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.60 (s, 1H), 5.49 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 1.222 (s, 12H), 1.216 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.0, 130.3, 116.6, 116.4, 114.0, 83.7, 82.8, 51.2, 24.41, 24.40. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.3. HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₃₀B₂N₂O₆ (M⁺): 392.2290, found: 392.2279.

2-Cyano-1,4-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (3e, entry 4)



According to the general procedure, 2-pyrazinecarbonitryl (**1e**, 45 mg, 0.43 mmol) was reacted with **2** (103 mg, 0.40 mmol). The product **3e** (140 mg, 96%) was obtained as a yellow solid. **3e**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.99 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (dd, J = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 12H), 1.21 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 132.2, 115.6, 115.4, 112.1, 99.6, 84.1, 83.6, 24.43, 24.38. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.9. HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₂₇B₂N₃O₄ (M⁺): 359.2188, found: 359.2182.

2,6-Dimethyl-1,4-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (3f, entry 5)



According to the general procedure, 2,6-dimethylpyrazine (**1f**, 48 mg, 0.45 mmol) was reacted with **2** (98 mg, 0.39 mmol). The product **3f** (107 mg, 77%) was obtained as a white solid. This compound was gradually decomposed in CDCl₃. **3f**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 5.96 (q, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 6H), 1.01 (s, 12H), 0.97 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 123.7, 115.9, 82.9, 81.9, 24.7, 24.5, 18.4. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.8. HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₃₂B₂N₂O₄ (M⁺): 362.2548, found: 362.2538.

5. Diboration of Pyrazine (1a) with 4 (eq 2)

In a drybox, pyrazine (1a, 36 mg, 0.45 mmol) and 5,5,5',5'-tetramethyl-2,2'-bi-1,3,2dioxaborinane (4, 88 mg, 0.39 mmol) were placed in a screw-capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar. THF (0.4 mL) was added to the vial and the vial was capped by a screw cap. The solution was stirred magnetically in the drybox at room temperature. After 24 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to remove volatiles including remaining 1a. The *N*,*N*'-diboryl-1,4-dihydropyrazine **5** (107 mg, 90%) was obtained as a white solid with high purity.

1,4-Bis-(5,5-dimethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborinan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (5)



5: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.18 (s, 4H), 3.54 (s, 8H), 0.91 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 112.5, 72.4, 32.1, 21.7. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 17.6. HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₄B₂N₂O₄ (M⁺): 306.1922, found: 306.1928.

6. Silaboration of Pyrazine (1a) (eq 3)

In a drybox, pyrazine (**1a**, 35 mg, 0.43 mmol) was placed in a screw-capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar. THF (0.4 mL) and 2-(chlorodimethylsilyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (**6**, 87 mg, 0.39 mmol) were added to the vial and the vial was capped by a screw cap. The solution was stirred magnetically in the drybox at room temperature. After 24 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to remove volatiles including remaining **1a**. The *N*-boryl-N'-silyl-1,4-dihydropyrazine **7** (97 mg, 82%) was obtained with high purity.

1-(Chlorodimethylsilyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyrazine (7)



7: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.12 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (s, 12H), 0.44

(s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 113.8, 113.3, 83.0, 24.5, 0.5. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.8. HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₂H₂₂BClN₂O₂Si (M⁺):300.1232, found: 300.1238.

7. Hydroboration of Pyrazine (1a) (eq 4)

In a drybox, pyrazine (**1a**, 32 mg, 0.39 mmol) was placed in a screw-capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar. THF (0.4 mL) and pinacolborane (**8**, 114 mg, 0.89 mmol) were added to the vial and the vial was capped by a screw cap. The solution was stirred magnetically in the drybox at 50 °C. After 72 h the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to remove volatiles including remaining **8**. The *N*,*N*'-diboryl-12,3,4-tetrahydropyrazine **9** (114 mg, 87%) was obtained as a white solid with high purity.

1,4-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrazine (9)



9: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.66 (s, 2H), 3.31 (s, 4H), 1.22 (s, 24H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 110.4, 82.6, 41.9, 24.6. ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.7. HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₃₀B₂N₂O₄ (M⁺): 336.2392, found: 336.2390.

8. ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹¹B NMR spectra of 3a-f, 5, 7, and 9

¹H, ¹³C, and ¹¹B NMR spectra of **3a-f**, **5**, **7**, and **9** are shown in following pages.































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