Supporting Information

Radical Addition of Alkyl halides to formaldehyde in the Presence of Cyanoborohydride as a Radical Mediator. A New Protocol for Hydroxymethylation Reaction

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General Techniques. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck precoated plates (silica gel 60 F254, Art 5715, 0.25 mm) and were visualized by fluorescence quenching under UV light or by staining with *p*-anisaldeyde/AcOH/H₂SO₄/EtOH, or 12MoO₃·H₃PO₄/EtOH. The products were purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Kanto Chem. Co. Silica Gel 60N (spherical, neutral, 40-50 mm)) and, if necessary, were further purified by recycling preparative HPLC (Japan Analytical Industry Co. Ltd., LC-918) equipped with GPC columns (JAIGEL-1H + JAIGEL-2H columns) using CHCl₃ as eluent. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded with a JEOL JMN-ECS400 (400 MHz) spectrometer or a Varian MR400 (400 MHz) spectrometer and referenced to the solvent peak at 7.26 ppm. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded with a JEOL JMN-ECS500 (100 MHz) spectrometer or a Varian MR400 (100 MHz) spectrometer and referenced to the solvent peak at 77.00 ppm. Splitting patterns are indicated as follows: br, broad; s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. Infrared spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-4100 spectrometer and are reported as wavenumber (cm⁻¹). High resolution mass spectra were recorded with a JEOL MS700 spectrometer. Mp was measured in capillary using BUCHI Melting Point B-540.

Acetonitrile (MeCN) was distilled over calcium hydride. Borohydrides were prepared in a similar manner as described for corresponding borohydride¹. Alkyl iodides **1a**, **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, and **1f** were prepared from the corresponding alcohol according to the literature methods.² Alkyl iodides **1j** and **1k** were prepared from cyclohexene and corresponding alcohol to the literature method.³ Other reagents were commercially available and used without further purification.

¹ Hutchins, R. O.; Kandasamy, D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 6131.

² (a) Olah, G. A.; Narang, S. C.; Gupta, B. G. B.; Malhotra, R. J. Org. Chem. 1979, 44, 1247.

⁽b) Lukach, A. E.; Rossi, R. A. J. Org. Chem. 1999, 64, 5826.

³ Gerald, H.; Mary-Jeanne, L.; Anne, R.; Rex T, W. Tetrahedron 1993, 20, 4229.

General Procedure.

Method A

A magnetic stirring bar, 1-iodoadamantane (**1a**) (66 mg, 0.25 mmol), *n*-Bu₄NBH₃CN (282 mg, 1.0 mmol), and paraformaldehyde (113 mg, 3.8 mmol) were placed in a Pyrex test tube. Purged three times with nitrogen, then CH₃CN (1 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was irradiated by black light (15 W) with stirring for 3 h under nitrogen. Methanol (1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirring for 10 min. The reaction mixture was filterated through silica pad, then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on SiO₂ (hexane/AcOEt = 10) to give 1-adamantanemethanol **1b** (35 mg, 0.21 mmol, 85%).

Method B

A magnetic stirring bar, 1-bromodoadamantane (**1a**) (109 mg, 0.51 mmol), *n*-Bu₄NBH₃CN (562 mg, 2.0 mmol), and paraformaldehyde (225 mg, 7.6 mmol) were placed in a quartz test tube. Purged three times with nitrogen, then CH₃CN (2 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was irradiated by low pressure Hg lamp (6 W) with stirring for 12 h under nitrogen. Methanol (1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirring for 10 min. The reaction mixture was filterated through silica pad, then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on SiO₂ (hexane/AcOEt = 10) to give 1-adamantanemethanol **1b** (71 mg, 0.43 mmol, 85%).

Method C

A magnetic stirring bar, 1-iodoadamantane (**1a**) (65 mg, 0.25 mmol), *n*-Bu₄NBH₃CN (140 mg, 0.5 mmol), paraformaldehyde (56 mg, 1.9 mmol) and AIBN (8 mg, were placed in a Pyrex test tube. Purged three times with nitrogen, then CH₃CN (1 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was heated at 80 °C for 3 h under nitrogen. Methanol (1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirring for 10 min The reaction mixture was filterated through silica pad, then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on SiO₂ (hexane/AcOEt = 10) to give 1-adamantanemethanol **1b** (36 mg, 0.22 mmol, 87%).



1-Adamantanmethanol (2a). colorless solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.45-1.58 (m, 6H), 1.60-1.70 (m, 3H), 1.70-1.80 (m, 3H), 1.96-2.04 (m, 3H), 3.20 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 28.17, 34.47, 37.16, 39.02, 73.86. This product is commercially available and the 1H- and ¹³C NMR spectra are consistent with those of the authentic sample.

OH

3,5-Dimethyladamantane-1-methanol (2b). colorless solid; mp. 58-59 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.82 (s, 6H), 1.07-1.13 (m, 3H), 1.14-1.20 (m, 3H), 1.30-1.36 (m, 7H), 2.06-2.11 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 29.30, 30.58, 30.91, 36.33, 37.65, 43.38, 45.32, 51.40, 73.30.

OH OH

3-Hydroxy-1-adamantanemethanol (2c). colorless solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.44-1.57 (m, 10H), 1.64-1.73 (m, 4H), 2.24-2.25 (m, 2H), 3.29 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 30.35, 35.59, 37.71, 38.44, 44.85, 46.66, 68.84, 68.84, 72.66; FT-IR (KBr): 3374, 3307 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 182 (M⁺, 32), 151 (100), 107 (12), 95 (33), 91 (11), 77 (11) ; HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₈O₂ (M⁺) 182.1307, found 182.1307.



1,3-Adamantanedimethanol (2d). colorless solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.28 (bs, 2H), 1.43-1.64 (m, 12H), 2.11 (brs, 2H), 3.26 (s, 4H); ¹¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 28.12, 34.97, 36.66, 38.62, 40.44, 73.48. FT-IR (KBr): 3314 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 196 (M⁺, 17), 165 (100), 147 (28), 104 (31), 90 (20) 81 (11), 79 (18); HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₂₀O₂ (M⁺) 196.1463, found 196.1470.



2-Adamantanemethanol (2e). colorless solid; mp. 82-84 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.25 (bs, 1H), 1.52-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.95 (m, 13H), 3.73 (d, *J* = 8Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl3, 100 MHz): δ 27.93, 28.37, 29.19, 31.91, 38.16, 38.86, 47.10, 65.08.



2-Norbornanemethanol (exo / endo = 99 / 1) (2f). colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.94-1.20 (m, 1H), 1.06-1.12 (m, 1H), 1.12-1.23 (m, 2H), 1.23-1.28 (m, 1H), 1.32-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.70 (m, 1H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.24 (m, 1H), 3.28-3.42 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): d 28.91, 29.82, 33.99, 35.13, 36.09, 38.09, 44.89, 66.92.

ОН

Cyclohexanemethanol (2g). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.87-0.96 (m, 2H), 1.13-1.28 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.73 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.75 (m, 6H), 2.65-2.90 (m, 1H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 25.81. 26.57, 29.52, 40.45, 68.78. This product is commercially available and the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra are consistent with those of the authentic sample.

C₁₀H₂₁ OH

1-Undecanol (2h). colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 3H), 1.18-1.50 (m, 16H), 1.53-1.58 (m, 2H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 14.10, 22.67, 25.71, 29.32, 29.42, 29.60, 31.90, 32.77, 63.07. This product is commercially available and the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra are consistent with those of the authentic sample.

ОН

3-Phenyl-propane-1-ol (2i). colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.90 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.31 (m, 5H).; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 32.06, 34.22, 62.31, 125.86, 128.40, 128.42, 141.79. This product is commercially available and the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra are consistent with those of the authentic sample.

,,,OH

2-methoxycyclohexyl methanol (2j)⁴ colorless oil;; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.92 (dq, *J* = 3.2, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 1.05-1.28 (m, 3H), 1.54-1.85 (m, 4H), 2.14-2.20 (m, 1H), 3.06 (dt, *J* = 3.6, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.47-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 24.27, 25.13, 27.70, 30.01, 45.07, 55.60, 68.71, 86.06.

⁴ Christoph, R. J. Orgmetal. Chem. **1986**, 310, 135.



2-octahydrobenzofuran-3-yl)ethanol (2k) (dr = 75/25)

colorless oil; (major isomer)¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 1.04-1.19 (m, 2H), 1.22-1.79 (m, 7H), 1.83-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.94-2.00 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.50 (m, 1H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59-3.69 (m, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 20.43, 22.03, 24.46, 28.48, 30.57, 39.97, 40.61, 62.10, 70.92, 78.16; FT-IR (neat) : 3398, 2930, 2860, 1446, 1433, 1157 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 170 (M⁺, 23), 125 (100), 98 (15), 83 (20), 81 (24) ; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₈O₂ (M⁺) 170.1307, found 170.1299.



3-hydroxymethylcholest-5-ene (dr = 93/7) (2l). colorless solid; mp. 108-109 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.67 (s, 3H), 0.85-2.10 (m, 41H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 5.31-5.33 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 11.85, 18.70, 19.45, 22.55, 22.82, 23.82, 24.27, 25.34, 28.00, 28.23, 30.94, 31.87, 35.79, 36.18, 37.34, 39.00, 39.50, 39.80, 42.11, 42.29, 50.38, 56.14, 56.80, 68.50, 119.95, 142.30 ; FT-IR (KBr): 3338, 2931, 1458, 1376, 1332, 1141, 1066, 999, 960, 834 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 400 (M⁺, 100), 385 (88), 301 (45), 245 (45), 95 (45), 81 (36); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₄₈O (M+) 400.3705, found 400.3714.



(3) colorless solid; mp. 90-91 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.63 (s, 3H), 0.85 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H), 0.95-1.62 (m, 27H), 1.75-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.89 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (dt, *J* = 2.8, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (brs, 1H), 3.73-3.81 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 11.89, 16.53, 18.65, 20.60, 22.55, 22.83, 23.92, 24.21, 27.44, 28.00, 28.25, 28.44, 32.51, 32.81, 34.85, 35.84, 36.16, 36.22, 39.49, 39.90, 41.09, 42.46, 47.86, 55.95, 56.23, 71.67, 85.4; FT-IR (KBr): 2920, 2857, 1459, 1382, 1116, 1037, 970, 945, 860, 791, 760 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 400 (M⁺, 100), 385 (22), 260 (12), 244 (15), 245 (20), 95 (11); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₄₈O (M⁺) 400.3705, found 400.3711.



(4) colorless solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.64 (s, 3H), 0.84-0.91 (m ,12H), 0.96-1.37 (m, 17H), 1.48-1.67 (m, 7H), 1.70-1.88 (m, 3H), 1.95-2.02 (m, 2H), 2.39 (brs, 1H), 3.47 (dt, *J* = 2.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69-3.82 (m, 2H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 11 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 11.88, 16.38, 18.64, 20.59, 22.53, 22.81, 23.90, 24.14, 27.06, 27.98, 28.25, 31.91, 32.72, 34.07, 34.25, 35.76, 35.82, 36.14, 37.29, 39.46, 39.86, 41,77, 42.34, 47.84, 55.99, 56.19, 64.58, 71.40, 89.96; FT-IR (CHCl₃): 3019, 2399, 1521, 1424, 1212, 1046, 929 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 430 (M⁺, 100), 412 (18), 400 (21), 399 (25), 275 (13), 95 (17), 81 (15); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C28H48O (M-H⁺) 431.3811, found 431.3871.





































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