

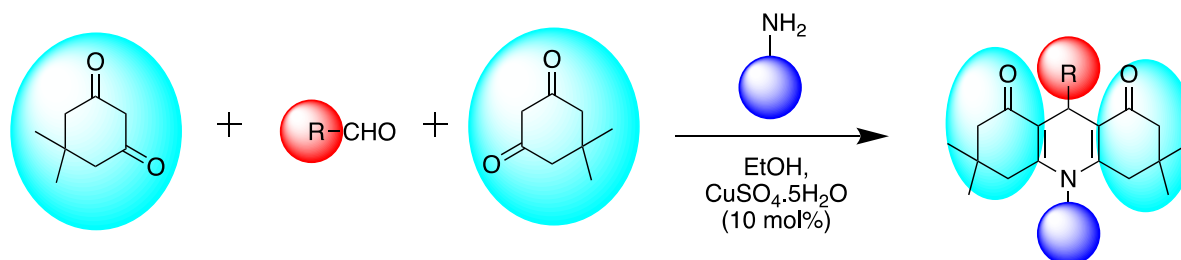
Copper-catalyzed ambient synthesis of functionalized 1,4-Dihydropyridines

Shuchi Kukreja*

Department of Chemistry, Hindu College Sonapat 131001, Haryana, India

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ABSTRACT



1,4-Dihydropyridine moiety has received much attention due to the wide spectrum of biological activities associated with it. An array of functionalized 1,4-Dihydropyridines has been synthesized in ambient conditions utilizing the catalytic properties of cupric sulfate pentahydrate. The entire focus of the present work has been to develop a 'benign by design' protocol with short reaction times and a simple reaction procedure. A wide substrate scope, good product yield, use of an eco-friendly solvent, a re-cyclable catalyst, as well as a reaction at ambient temperature are the advantages of this method. The catalyst cupric sulphate pentahydrate is indispensable for carrying out the reaction at room temperature.

Keywords: 1,4-Dihydropyridines, dimedone, cupric sulfate pentahydrate, ambient conditions

INTRODUCTION

1,4-Dihydropyridines (DHP) are much sought-after heterocyclic ring systems by virtue of their importance in synthetic and medicinal chemistry. They show a plethora of significant pharmacological properties and are also analogs of NADH coenzymes. 1,4-DHP derivatives have numerous medicinal applications such as calcium channel blockers for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases¹ including hypertension. They are also used as antidiabetic, anti-tumor,² anti-aging,³ anti-atherosclerotic,⁴ bronchodilators,⁵ anti-microbial,⁶ anti-coagulant,⁷ anti-oxidant,⁸ anticancer,¹⁰ antileishmanial and anti-trypanosomal¹¹ agents, HIV-1 protease inhibitors and antioxidants.¹² Since the first report of the synthesis of 1,4-DHP by Hantzsch in 1882, this moiety has been a highly active area of research. Umpteen choices of precursors,

make 1,4-DHPs privileged scaffolds with a biological activity that can be tuned, in potency and selectivity, to the desired extent to target specific pharmacological effects in diverse therapeutic areas¹³⁻¹⁶ That is why the literature is replete with synthetic procedures of 1,4 DHP. A number of conventional and green protocols have been reported for the synthesis of DHPs using various catalysts such as $\text{AlCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$,¹⁷ $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$,¹⁸ Ceric ammonium nitrate,¹⁹ Fermenting baker's yeast,²⁰ $\text{HClO}_4 \cdot \text{SiO}_2$,²¹ HY-zeolite,²² Ionic liquids,²³ K10-montmorillonite clay,²⁴ Molecular iodine,²⁵ magnetite/chitosan,²⁶ Ni nanoparticles,²⁷ Organocatalysts,²⁸ p-TSA,²⁹ SiO_2 ,³⁰ triethylamine,³¹ TMSC,³² ZnO ,³³ Fe-CuZSM-5,³⁴ catalyst silica sulfuric acid,³⁵ Microwave irradiation, and Ultrasound³⁶ etc. As almost all of the above-mentioned methods have one or the other negative points such as expensive reagents, tedious work-up, moisture sensitivity, and toxic and harsh reaction conditions, thus developing an efficient protocol with a powerful catalyst for the synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyridine is still an active research field.

Catalysis is an important part of green chemistry, and one of the fundamental challenges facing chemists today is the design and application of eco-friendly catalysts.³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Stable and green catalyst is defined as being easily available, highly active, having great selectivity, high stability, efficient recovery, and good recyclability⁴¹ All these qualities are associated with cupric

*Corresponding Author: Dr Shuchi Kukreja
Tel: 7988121605
Email: shuchi.org@gmail.com

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sulphate pentahydrate a transition metal catalyst. Copper in its various oxidation states has been used in organic synthesis. Recently, $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been used as a Lewis acid catalyst for various organic transformations⁴²⁻⁴⁴ It is an inexpensive, mild, easily available, and extremely safe reagent to be used in chemical reactions. All these desirable characteristics make copper sulfate pentahydrate a suitable catalyst for the synthesis of functionalized 1,4-DHPs. Hence in the present work, the synthesis of the target compounds was taken up via a multicomponent reaction where dimedone as a 1,3-diketone was reacted with an aromatic aldehyde and an aromatic amine in the presence of copper sulfate pentahydrate in a catalytic amount. The results were highly encouraging as the reaction was done at ambient temperature with high product yields and easy work-up. The copper sulfate was recycled with almost no loss of activity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Initially, a mixture of dimedone (5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione), benzaldehyde, and aniline in ethanol (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature in presence of 10 mol% of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Scheme 1) to study the efficiency of catalyst for Hantzsch reaction. As anticipated, the product formation started immediately and the reaction was complete within 5-10 min (as monitored by TLC plate examination). The reaction mixture was heated to solubilize the product, in order to recover the insoluble $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, by filtration. The filtrate on cooling afforded good yields of pure product. The structure characterization was done on the basis of spectral data (IR, ^1H NMR, and mass) and elemental analyses.

Product formation **4a-m** was confirmed by the spectral data, the appearance of a strong band between $1680\text{-}1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$ characteristic of carbonyl in conjugation with the double bond and bands between $1600\text{-}1400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ due to aromatic ring skeleton carbon-carbon stretch in the IR spectra of all the target compounds supported the product structure. In the NMR spectra of the compounds **4a-m** appearance of signals in the aromatic region between 6.4-7.5 ppm was further in line with the proposed product structure, further the appearance of two signals of 6H each between 1.11 and 1.15 ppm due to four methyl groups, gave evidence for condensation of two molecules of dimedone with one molecule of aldehyde and one of amine resulting in the formation of the symmetrical 1,4 -DHPs. The elemental analysis data and m/z values also corroborated these results.

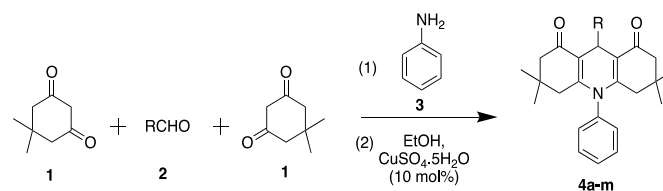
$\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ promotes the reaction as mild lewis acid, and also accelerates the dehydration, thereby facilitating the product formation. Control reaction in the absence of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ yielded no product supporting the fact that the presence of the catalyst was indispensable for facilitating the reaction at room temperature.

Having identified the qualitative role of the catalyst assessment of its quantitative aspect was taken up. Synthesis of **4a** was carried out with different concentrations of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The yields were modest (68%) with 2 mol%, and an increase in its concentration to 5, 10, and 15 mol% resulted in an increase in the product yield to 87%, 95%, and 96% respectively. Therefore, just 10 mol% of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was found sufficient to push the reaction forward in ambient conditions. $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ could be recovered after the

reaction and was reused without any significant loss of activity (Table 1). Then the model process was optimized by testing the efficiency of several classical solvents chosen as the reaction medium for comparison (Table 2). In each case, the substrates were mixed together with 10 mol% of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, agitated with 5-6 mL of solvent, as expected, the polar solvents such as ethanol, acetonitrile (entry 1, 2, Table 2) were found better than non-polar solvents (entry 4, 6, Table 2) due to the high solubility of reactants in the former. When acetone was used (entry 3, Table 2) reaction proceeded very fast but the pale solid obtained was contaminated with many by-products probably due to the fast, self-assembling of reagents or some competitive reaction promoted by $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in acetone. Based on these findings ethanol was chosen as the reaction medium.

Under the optimized reaction conditions next the universality of the reaction was checked. Results shown in (Table 3) indicate that aliphatic, aromatic (electron-rich and electron-deficient), and heteroaromatic aldehydes such as thiophene-2-carboxaldehyde (13, Table 3) and indole aldehyde (12, Table 3) worked well exemplifying the versatility of the reaction.

In nutshell, the presented protocol for the synthesis of 1,4 DHP using $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a mild Lewis acid for catalyzing the Hantzsch reaction has been very efficient. The unprecedented quickness of reaction in ambient conditions has proved the superiority of cheap and easily available $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ over the other lewis acids (I_2 , iron salts, metal triflates, ionic liquids, etc.) used to catalyze the Hantzsch reaction. The operational simplicity along with high yields make this procedure adaptable for large-scale production of biologically relevant 1,4-DHPs.



Scheme 1. Chemical synthesis of 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were taken on a Thomas Hoover melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra (KBr) were recorded on a model Perkin-Elmer FTIR-1710 spectrophotometer, ^1H NMR, on a Bruker Advance Spectrospin 300 instrument using TMS as an internal standard. Elemental analyses were performed on a Heraeus CHN Rapid Analyser and were in close agreement with calculated data. Mass spectra were recorded on a KC 455 Waters TOF Spectrometer. The purity of the compounds was checked on silica gel-coated aluminum plates (Merck).

(1) General Procedure for Synthesis of 4a-m

A mixture of dimedone **1** (2 mmol), benzaldehyde **2** (1 mmol), and aniline **3** (1 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was heated to solubilize the product and the catalyst was separated from the

reaction mixture by simple filtration. Pure products **4a-m** were recrystallized from ethanol.

Recycling of the Catalyst

After the completion of the reaction, the catalyst was filtered, washed with diethyl ether, dried at 80°C for 1 h, and reused in another reaction. The recycled catalyst was used for five reactions without any appreciable loss in its catalytic activities.

Table 1. The percentage yields of **4c** during the reuse of the CuSO₄·5H₂O catalyst

Entry	1	2	3	4	5
Yield %	96	95.5	95	94.2	93.5

Table 2. Reaction times and yields (%) in CuSO₄·5H₂O catalyzed 1,4-DHP synthesis using different solvents

Entry	Solvent	Time (min)	Yield (%)
1.	C ₂ H ₅ OH	6	96
2.	CH ₃ CN	10	90
3.	Acetone	7	81
4.	Toluene	30	50
5.	CH ₂ Cl ₂	25	54
6.	Cyclohexane	30	39

^a isolated and unoptimized yields.

Table 3. The yield (%) of CuSO₄·5H₂O catalyzed 1,4 DHP synthesis of **4a-m** in ethanol

Entry	R	Product	Yield (%) ^a
1.	H ^b	4a	92
2.	CH ₃	4b	92
3.	C ₆ H ₅	4c	96
4.	3-NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄	4d	90
5.	4-ClC ₆ H ₄	4e	91
6.	2-HOC ₆ H ₄	4f	92
7.	4-HOC ₆ H ₄	4g	92
8.	3,4-(O-CH ₂ -O) C ₆ H ₃	4h	92
9.	4-Me ₂ NC ₆ H ₄	4i	93
10.	4-CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄	4j	92
11.	2-Hydroxynaphthyl	4k	90
12.	3-Indolyl	4l	90
13.	2-Thienyl	4m	90

^aIsolated and unoptimized yields. ^bin 37-41% formaldehyde solution.

3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4a**): M.P.: 254-256°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1635, 1595, 1490; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 4.12 (s, 2H, C₉H), 6.97-7.26 (m, 5H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₂₃H₂₇NO₂: C 79.05, H 7.79, N 4.01; found C 78.46, H 7.93, N 3.68; m/z: 349.2042.

3,3,6,6,9-pentamethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4b**): M.P.: 260-261°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1635, 1560, 1470; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.12 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.26 (d, 3H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 4.12 (s, 1H, C₉H), 6.97-7.26 (m, 5H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for

C₂₄H₂₉NO₂: C 79.30, H 8.04, N 3.85; found C 78.11, H 7.32, N 3.01; m/z: 363.1108.

3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-9,10-diphenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4c**): M.P.: 209-210°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1640, 1598, 1390; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 5.23 (s, 1H, C₉H), 6.97-7.46 (m, 10H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₂₉H₃₁NO₂: C 81.85, H 7.34, N 3.29; found C 80.31, H 6.79, N 2.93; m/z: 424.6415.

3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-9-(3-nitrophenyl)-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4d**): M.P.: 222-223°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1648, 1510, 1420, 1390; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.12 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.15 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 5.41 (s, 1H, C₉H), 7.09-7.43 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 7.63-7.99 (m, 3H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₂₉H₃₀N₂O₄: C 74.02, H 6.43, N 5.95; found C 73.53, H 5.72, N 5.04; m/z: 470.2206.

9-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4e**): M.P.: 138-140°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1630, 1550, 1470; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.12 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.28-2.49 (m, 8H, CH₂), 5.31 (s, 1H, C₉H), 7.09-7.53 (m, 9H, Ar-H); Anal. for C₂₉H₃₀ClNO₂: C 75.72, H 6.57, N 3.04; found C 74.34, H 5.48, N 2.89; m/z: 458.8914.

9-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4f**): M.P.: 220-221°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1640, 1598, 1480, 3310; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 4.68 (s, 1H, OH), 5.32 (s, 1H, C₉H), 6.97-7.46 (m, 9H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₂₉H₃₁NO₃: C 78.88, H 7.08, N 3.17; found C 77.09, H 6.68, N 2.89; m/z: 441.2304.

9-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4g**): M.P.: 210-211°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1630, 1598, 1490, 3320; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 4.66 (s, 1H, OH), 5.32 (s, 1H, C₉H), 6.93-7.45 (m, 9H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₂₉H₃₁NO₃: C 78.88, H 7.08, N 3.17; found C 79.63, H 6.65, N 2.93; m/z: 440.3412.

9-(benzo[*d*][1,3] dioxol-5-yl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4h**): M.P.: 215-217°C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1655, 1598, 1420; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.12 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.28-2.49 (m, 8H, CH₂), 5.32 (s, 1H, C₉H), 5.91 (s, 2H, OCH₂O), 6.73-7.31 (m, 8H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₃₀H₃₁NO₄: C 76.73, H 6.65, N 2.98; found C 75.87, H 6.01, N 2.18; m/z: 469.5612.

9-(4-(dimethylamino) phenyl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4i**): M.P.: 234-235 °C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1635, 1568, 1370; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 2.85 (s, 6H, NMe₂), 5.32 (s, 1H, C₉H), 6.73-7.44 (m, 9H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for C₃₁H₃₆N₂O₂: C 79.45, H 7.74, N 5.98; found C 78.75, H 7.03, N 5.12; m/z: 467.8347.

9-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4j**): M.P.: 206-208 °C IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1635, 1570, 1440, 1390; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm: 1.10 (s, 6H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.29-2.50 (m, 8H, CH₂), 3.98 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 5.32 (s, 1H, C₉H), 6.89-7.39 (m, 9H, Ar-H);

Anal. Calc. for $C_{30}H_{33}NO_3$: C 79.09, H 7.30, N 3.07; found C 78.24, H 6.54, N 2.56; m/z: 455.2387.

9-(2-hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4k**): M.P.: 198–199 °C IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3310, 1650, 1535, 1470; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH_3), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH_3), 2.29–2.50 (m, 8H, CH_2), 4.96 (s, 1H, OH), 5.36 (s, 1H, C_9H), 6.86–6.94 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.01–7.54 (m, 7H, Ar-H); Anal. Calc. for $C_{33}H_{33}NO_3$: C 80.62, H 6.77, N 2.85; found C 79.63, H 5.89, N 2.02; m/z: 490.7986.

9-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4l**): M.P.: 241–242 °C IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3210, 1640, 1593, 1430; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH_3), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH_3), 2.29–2.50 (m, 8H, CH_2), 5.36 (s, 1H, C_9H), 6.83–7.31 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 9.96 (brs, 1H, NH); Anal. Calc. for $C_{31}H_{32}N_2O_2$: C 80.14, H 6.94, N 6.03; found C 79.53, H 6.32, N 5.93; m/z: 463.8629.

3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-9-(thiophen-2-yl)-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2*H*,5*H*)-dione (**4m**): M.P.: 156–158 °C IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3212, 1655, 1598, 1460; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) ppm: 1.11 (s, 6H, CH_3), 1.14 (s, 6H, CH_3), 2.29–2.50 (m, 8H, CH_2), 5.36 (s, 1H, C_9H), 6.97–7.26 (m, 5H, Ar H), 7.21 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 1H, thienyl-H), 7.78 (t, 1H, thienyl-H), 8.18 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H, thienyl-H); Anal. Calc. for $C_{27}H_{29}NO_2S$: C 75.14, H 6.77, N 3.25; found C 74.72, H 5.96, N 2.94; m/z: 430.6238.

CONCLUSION

An environmentally benign protocol for the synthesis of 1,4-DHPs using $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$, a mild lewis acid has been developed. The unprecedented quickness of reaction in ambient conditions has proved the superiority of cheap, mild, and easily available $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ over the other lewis acids (I_2 , iron salts, metal triflates, ionic liquids, etc.) used to catalyze the Hantzsch reaction. The operational simplicity along with high yields make this procedure adaptable for large-scale production of biologically relevant 1,4-DHPs. There seems enormous scope in organic synthesis for this catalyst.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The author does not have any conflict of interest for this work.

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