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1-*tert*-Butoxy-2-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinoline: A Novel and Chemoselective *tert*-Butoxycarbonylation Reagent
Org. Lett. **2002**, 4, 585–587.

A Novel Reagent for *tert*-Butoxycarbonylation of Amino Acids

Synthesis of 1-*tert*-butoxy-2-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinoline (BBDI):

Examples:

Substrate	Method ^a	Product	Isolated yield (%)
H-Met-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Met-OMe	93
H-Met-OMe•HCl	B	Boc-Met-OMe	95
H-Ala-OEt•HCl	B	Boc-Ala-OEt	87
H-Leu-OEt•HCl	B	Boc-Leu-OEt	91
H-Val-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Val-OMe	86
H-Phe-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Phe-OMe	97
H-Pro-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Pro-OMe	98
H-Glu(OEt)-OEt•HCl	B	Boc-Glu(OEt)-OEt	98
H-Ser-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Ser-OMe	92
H-Cys-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Cys-OMe	87
H-Tyr-OMe•HCl	A	Boc-Tyr-OMe	76 ^b

^a Method A: 1,2-dimethoxyethane, r.t., overnight; method B: Et₂O, reflux, overnight. ^b Small amount of Boc-Tyr(Boc)-OMe was also obtained.

Significance: Boc-protected amino acids are important because of their good resistance in peptide synthesis. The authors developed (BBDI) as an alternative to the conventional *tert*-butoxycarbonylating reagent di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate for the synthesis of Boc-protected α -amino acids.

Comment: With the *tert*-butoxycarbonylating reagent BBDI, various Boc-protected α -amino acids can be synthesized from amino acid ester hydrochlorides in excellent yields.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Hisashi Yamamoto, An Wu
 Synfacts 2020, 16(09), 1125 Published online: 18.08.2020
 DOI: 10.1055/s-0040-1705851; Reg-No.: H10120SF

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Category

Peptide Chemistry

Key words

butoxycarbonylation

amino acids

chemoselectivity

isoquinolines

Synfact
Classic

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