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 $Sulfone-Mediated S_N Ar \ Reaction \ as \ a \ Powerful \ Tool \ for \ the \ Synthesis \ of \ 4-Quinolinyl \ Ethers \ and \ More-Application \ to \ the$ Synthesis of HCV NS3/4a Protease Inhibitor BI 201420 J. Org. Chem. 2020, 85, 8339-8351.

Synthesis of BI 201420

Significance: A new method for the synthesis of 4-quinolinyl ethers has been applied to BI 201420, an HCV NS3/4a protease inhibitor. In the key step, methyl
sulfone \boldsymbol{c} underwent an $S_N\!Ar$ reaction with alcohol **D** in the presence of potassium 3,7-dimethyloctan-3-oxide (KDMO, 4.0 equiv) to give 4-quinolyl ether E in 75% yield. Scoping studies revealed that 1°, 2°, 3°, allylic, and propargylic alcohols participate (20 examples).

Comment: The corresponding S_NAr reaction of 4-chloroquinolines with alcohols is sluggish, even with excess base (>5.0 equiv), and significant decomposition of starting material and product are observed during the long reaction times (12–24 h). Extensive optimization of solvent and reaction conditions failed to produce the desired 4-quinolinyl ethers in reasonable yield and quality.

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Synthesis of Natural Products and **Potential Drugs**

Key words

BI 201420

HCV NS3/4a protease inhibitor

4-methylsulfonyl quinolines

quinoline ring formation

 S_N Ar reaction

