## Phosphorodiamidate-Directed Metalation of *N*-Heterocycles using Mg- and Zn-TMP Bases

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The strong directing ability of the N,N,N',N'-tetramethyldiaminophosphorodiamidate group has been used to achieve selective metalations on various heterocycles such as pyridines, quinolines and quinoxalines with TMP-derived bases like TMPMgCl·LiCl, TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg·2LiCl, and TMP<sub>2</sub>Zn·2MgCl<sub>2</sub>·2LiCl. This protocol was applied in the synthesis of etoricoxib, talnetant and a P-selectin inhibitor.

Heteroaromatics are important scaffolds in medicinal chemistry.<sup>1</sup> The skeletons of quinolines, pyridines, and quinoxalines are often found in pharmaceuticals such as the quinoline-based NK<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist talnetant<sup>2</sup> (**1**; GSK), the pyridine-based COX-2 inhibitor etoricoxib<sup>3</sup> (**2**; Arcoxia, Merck), or the quinoxaline-based tachykinin receptor antagonist<sup>4</sup> (**3**; Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma; Figure 1). Lithiations and magnesiations of these scaffolds using either a



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Figure 1. Pharmaceuticals containing a quinoline, pyridine, or quinoxaline skeleton.

halogen/metal exchange<sup>5</sup> or directed metalation<sup>6</sup> have been reported. Lithiations often suffer from a lack of selectivity even when carried out at low temperatures.<sup>5b,6e</sup> Recently,

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we have reported that the use of TMP (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidyl)-derived bases allows the efficient magnesiation<sup>7</sup> or zincation<sup>8</sup> of functionalized aromatics and heteroaromatics. We have also reported that the use of a N, N, N', N'-tetramethylphosphorodiamidate group as DMG (directed-metalation group)<sup>9</sup> allows fast and selective magnesiations of aromatics with unusual regioselectivity.<sup>10</sup> Herein, we report metalations of pyridines, quinolines, and quinoxalines performed with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a), TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg·2LiCl (4b), and  $TMP_2Zn \cdot 2MgCl_2 \cdot 2LiCl$  (4c) using the P(O)(NMe\_2)\_2 group as DMG. Thus, the phosphorodiamidate 5a (derived from 2-pyridinol) reacted with TMPMgCl·LiCl at 0 °C within 1 h and gave exclusively the 3-magnesiated heterocycle which reacted after transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> via Negishi crosscoupling reaction with 1-bromo-4-(methylthio)benzene in the presence of  $Pd_2(dba)_3$  (1 mol %) and RuPHOS (2 mol %),<sup>11</sup> giving the biaryl 6a in 74% yield (Table 1, entry 1). The

Table 1. Pyridines of Type 6 Obtained after Metalation with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a) or TMP<sub>2</sub>Zn·2MgCl<sub>2</sub>·2LiCl (4c) and Subsequent Quenching with an Electrophile



<sup>*a*</sup> Yield of isolated, analytically pure product. <sup>*b*</sup> TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.5 equiv) was used (0 °C, 1 h). <sup>*c*</sup> TMP<sub>2</sub>Zn·2MgCl·2LiCl (0.75 equiv) was used (25 °C, 1 h). <sup>*d*</sup> Obtained by Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction after transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (1.6 equiv) using Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (1 mol %) and RuPHOS (2 mol %) as catalyst. <sup>*e*</sup> Obtained by Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction using Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) and P(2-furyl)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %) as catalyst. <sup>*f*</sup> A transmetalation with CuCN·2LiCl (10 mol %) was performed.

phosphorodiamidate **5b** prepared from 3-hydroxypyridine was best metalated at 25 °C using TMP<sub>2</sub>Zn•2MgCl<sub>2</sub>•2LiCl (**4c**). Deprotonations with TMPMgCl•LiCl (**4a**) or TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg• 2LiCl (**4b**) resulted in lower yields, even when the metalations were carried out at low temperatures (-20 to -50 °C). Thus, the pyridine **5b** was zincated selectively in position 4 at 25 °C within 1 h. The resulting zinc reagent was quenched via Negishi reaction using either 4-iodophenyl triflate or 4-chloroiodobenzene with a Pd catalyst (Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %),  $P(2-furyl)_3$  (10 mol %)),<sup>14</sup> yielding the arylated pyridines 6b and 6c in 79-88% yield (entries 2 and 3). An allylation of the zinc reagent was achieved with 3-bromo-2-methylpropene in the presence of CuCN•2LiCl<sup>12</sup> (10 mol %) furnishing the allylated pyridine **6d** in 74% yield (entry 4). Moreover, functionalization in position 3 was achieved after metalation of the phosphorodiamidate 5c using TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a) (0 °C, 1 h). After addition of 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane, the desired 3-chloropyridine 6e was isolated in 83% yield (entry 5). The addition of S-methyl methanesulfonothioate gave the thioether 6f in 88% yield (entry 6). Furthermore, the phosphorodiamidate 7a derived from 2-hydroxyquinoline was magnesiated regioselectively at position 3 and then thioethylated with EtSSO<sub>2</sub>Ph<sup>13</sup> yielding the thioether 8a in 85% yield (Table 2, entry 1). Remarkably,

Table 2. Quinolines and Quinoxalines of Type 8 Obtained after Metalation with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a) or TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg·2LiCl (4b) and Subsequent Quenching with an Electrophile



<sup>*a*</sup> Yield of isolated, analytically pure product. <sup>*b*</sup> TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.5 equiv) was used (0 °C, 1 h). <sup>*c*</sup> TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg·2LiCl (1.5 equiv) was used (-30 °C, 1.5 h). <sup>*d*</sup> A transmetalation with CuCN·2LiCl (10 mol %) was performed after transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (1.6 equiv). <sup>*e*</sup> Obtained by Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction after transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (1.6 equiv) using Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) and P(2-furyl)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %) as catalyst.

magnesiations at the 3 position of the quinoline proceed without protection of the kinetically more favored C2 position. Thus, the quinoline 7b smoothly reacted with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a) at 0 °C within 1 h. The corresponding magnesium reagent was then transmetalated with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> and subsequently acylated with pivaloyl chloride in the presence of CuCN•2LiCl<sup>12</sup> (10 mol %) giving the heteroaromatic ketone 8b in 62% yield (entry 2). A cross-coupling reaction of the Zn-reagent derived from 7b with ethyl 4-iodobenzoate in the presence of a Pd-catalyst (Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %), P(2furyl)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %)<sup>14</sup>) furnished the 3-arylated quinoline **8c** in 83% yield (entry 3). Moreover, the regioselective functionalization of the C7 position was possible using this protocol. Thus, the 2-chloroquinoline 7c is readily magnesiated with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a) at 0 °C within 1 h. A transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> followed by the addition of methallyl bromide in the presence of CuCN•2LiCl<sup>12</sup> (10 mol %) led to the allylated quinoline 8d in 87% yield (entry 4). The addition of 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride under the same conditions furnished the ketone 8e in 74% yield (entry 5). The 2-bromoquinoline 7d also underwent a smooth magnesiation at 0 °C with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a). After transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, a cross-coupling reaction with (4iodophenoxy)(triisopropyl)silane in the presence of Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) and P(2-furyl)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %)<sup>14</sup> led to the arylated bromoquinoline 8f in 81% yield (entry 6). The introduction of an ethyl ester in position 7 was achieved by reacting the 7-magnesiated quinoline 7d with NC-CO<sub>2</sub>Et leading to the ester 8g in 77% yield (entry 7). Magnesiations or lithiations on quinoxalines are often difficult to achieve as these

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systems are prone to undergo nucleophilic substitution reactions.<sup>8a,15</sup> However, quinoxaline **7e** bearing a phosphorodiamidate group as DMG was smoothly magnesiated with TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg·2LiCl (**4b**) at -50 °C in 1.5 h without any dimerization side reaction. After a transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> it underwent a Negishi cross-coupling in the presence of a Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) and P(2-furyl)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %)<sup>14</sup> with either 4-chloroiodobenzene or ethyl 4-iodobenzoate leading to the 2-arylated quinoxalines **8h** and **8i** in up to 79% yield (entries 8 and 9). Treatment of the quinoxalylzinc reagent with methallyl bromide in the presence of CuCN•2LiCl<sup>12</sup> (10 mol %) furnished the allylated quinoxaline **8j** in 71% yield (entry 10).



As an application, we have prepared etoricoxib (2), talnetant (1), and a P-selectin inhibitor<sup>16</sup> (14) (Schemes 1 and 2). For the preparation of etoricoxib (2), a phosphorodiamidate DMG group was first attached at 2-pyridinol leading to **5a** in 90% yield.<sup>10</sup> In a second step, **5a** was selectively metalated in the 3-position using TMPMgCl·LiCl (**4a**; 1.5 equiv, 0 °C, 1 h).<sup>17</sup> After Zn-transmetalation, a subsequent cross-coupling reaction with 4-bromophenyl methyl sulfone in the presence of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (1 mol %) and RuPHOS<sup>11</sup> (2 mol %) gave the arylated pyridine **6g** in 88% yield. Cleavage of the directing group with an HCl/dioxane mixture<sup>18</sup> (25 °C, 24 h) led to the pyridone **9** in 95% yield.

Chlorination at the C5 position was achieved by reacting **9** with KClO<sub>3</sub> in the presence of concd HCl<sup>19</sup> furnishing

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quantitatively the 5-chloropyridine **10**. The final product was obtained using a literature procedure.<sup>3b</sup> Thus, the reaction of this pyridone with POCl<sub>3</sub> gave the corresponding 2,5-dichloropyridine which by Stille<sup>11</sup> reaction with the tin reagent **11** derived from 5-bromo-2-picoline furnished etoricoxib (**2**; Scheme 1). Similarly, we have prepared two pharmaceuticals bearing a quinoline salicylic acid spine.

Thus, 3-hydroxyquinoline was first converted into the corresponding phosphorodiamidate 7f.<sup>10</sup> The metalation with TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg•2LiCl (4b) occurred selectively at the C2 position (-50 °C, 1 h). Transmetalation with ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, followed by a cross-coupling reaction with either iodobenzene or 4-chloroiodobenzene in the presence of  $Pd(dba)_2$  (5 mol %) and  $P(2-furyl)_3$  (10 mol %),<sup>14</sup> furnished the quinolines **8k,l** in up to 81% yield. A subsequent metalation at the C4 position with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a, 25 °C, 1 h) and a reaction with NC-CO<sub>2</sub>Et gave the desired esters **12a,b** in 79-81% yield. Cleavage of the DMG and the ester is achieved by refluxing 12a in a HCl/dioxane mixture<sup>16</sup> for 36 h. The reaction of the resulting acid with (S)-phenylpropylamine and CDI<sup>20</sup> furnished talnetant (1) in 86% yield (Scheme 2). Completing the synthesis of the P-selectin inhibitor 14 required a phenylation of the C8 position. Thus, the treatment of 12b with TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg•2LiCl (**4b**, -40 °C, 20 h)<sup>7d</sup> followed by a transmetalation (ZnCl<sub>2</sub>) and a subsequent cross-coupling reaction with iodobenzene (Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %), P(2-furyl)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %)) yielded the highly functionalized quinoline 13 in 76% yield. Combined deprotection/saponification is achieved by refluxing 13 (2 M HCl; dioxane, 110 °C, 36 h) leading to the P-selectin inhibitor (14) quantitatively (Scheme 2).

In summary, we have shown that phosphorodiamidatesubstituted *N*-heterocycles can be smoothly and regioselectively magnesiated or zincated with TMPMgCl·LiCl (4a), TMP<sub>2</sub>Mg·2LiCl (4b), or TMP<sub>2</sub>Zn·2MgCl<sub>2</sub>·2LiCl (4c) and readily functionalized in positions difficult to substitute otherwise. This method was used to prepare three pharmaceutically relevant structures. Further studies on phosphate DMGs are currently underway in our laboratories.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental procedures, characterization data of all compounds, and X-ray data for **1**, **6b**, and **12a** is provided.<sup>21</sup> This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org. OL100453X

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<sup>(21)</sup> CCDC 766951 (1), 766952 (**6b**), and 766953 (12**b**) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif.