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Palladium-Catalyzed Regiocontrolled α -Arylation of Trimethylsilyl Enol Ethers with Aryl Halides

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ABSTRACT

Inter- and intramolecular arylations of trimethylsilyl enol ethers with aryl halides are accomplished regiospecifically in the presence of a palladium catalyst and tributyltin fluoride in refluxing benzene or toluene. The optimal catalyst system called for the use of Pd₂(dba)₃ and tri-tert-butylphosphine in ca. 1:2 ratio. Aryl iodides, bromides, and chlorides are all effective arylation partners in this reaction.

The direct introduction of an aryl unit at a nucleophilic carbon is a transformation of central importance to complex molecule synthesis. A synthetically useful subset of this class of reactions is the arylation of ketones at the α -position. Such transformations are even more valuable in instances where the arylating agent is adorned with substitutents. For example, in connection with a route to *Aspidosperma* alkaloids, we developed a diaryliodonium reagent for the

regiospecific *o*-nitrophenylation of an silyl enol ether, wherein subsequent reduction of the nitro group yielded indoles (e.g., eq 1).⁴ Our long-standing interest in transition metal catalyzed arylation and vinylation of phenolates (eq 2)⁵ prompted us to examine procedures for the palladium-catalyzed arylations of silyl enol ethers with aryl halides, and we report our results below.^{6,7}

In pioneering work, Kuwajima and Urabe⁸ reported the palladium-catalyzed α -arylation of silyl enol ethers of ketones with aryl halides in the presence of Bu₃SnF.⁹⁻¹¹ The advantage of this method over the palladium-catalyzed arylation of ketones under basic conditions is that it enables *regiocontrol of the arylation* rather than have it be controlled by the inherent kinetic or, more commonly, thermodynamic

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reactivity of the ketone. $^{12-15}$ Furthermore, one can hope to exploit the rich chemistry of regioselective enolate formation and parlay it into a regioselective arylation procedure. 16 Unfortunately, as originally reported, the scope of this reaction was rather limited, primarily to the arylation of the kinetic enol silyl ethers of methyl ketones. 8 Even the arylation of cyclohexanone enol ether was reported to give <15% yield of the α -arylation product. We examined modern variations of this process and developed a general procedure for the regiospecific inter- and intramolecular arylation of various ketone enol silyl ethers. $^{6.7}$

In considering the results and probable mechanism of the Kuwajima—Urabe arylation, the problematic steps appeared to be either the transmetalation of the putative tin enolate to the arylpalladium enolate or its reductive elimination to the arylated ketone. Assuming the latter was the issue, the expectation was that this step could be accelerated through the use of the bulky ligand t-Bu₃P.¹⁷ Numerous reaction

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conditions were examined for the arylation of cyclohexanone trimethylsilyl enol ether (2) with p-iodoanisole (eq 3). ^{18,19} Of the reaction parameters examined, the combination that afforded the cleanest reaction involved the use of 2.5 mol % of $Pd_2(dba)_3$, 6 mol % of t-Bu₃P, and 1 equiv of Bu₃SnF in refluxing benzene. However, the reaction was slow under these conditions and reached only \sim 50% completion after 20 h. On the other hand, it progressed well when the silyl enol ether and tin fluoride were used in excess (2 equiv each), and afforded arylated product $\bf 3a$ in 82% isolated yield (Table 1, entry 1).

Table 1. Pd-Catalyzed Arylation of Trimethylsilyl Enol Ether of Cyclohexanone with Various Aryl Halides^a

entry	R	X	time (h)	product	$\%$ yield a
1	4-MeO	I	19	3a	82
2	4-MeO	\mathbf{Br}	19	3a	78
3^b	$4 ext{-}MeO$	\mathbf{Br}	20	3a	64
4^c	4-MeO	Cl	20	3a	64
5	4-NMe_2	\mathbf{Br}	9	3b	54
6	H	I	21	3c	75
7	$4-NO_2$	I	8	3 d	70
8	$4-NO_2$	\mathbf{Br}	8	3 d	71
9	$4-NO_2$	Cl	5	3d	61
10	$4\text{-MeO}_2\mathrm{C}$	\mathbf{Br}	21	3e	62
11	3-MeO	I	20	3f	53
12	2-MeO	I	21	3g	71
13	2-Me	\mathbf{Br}	21	3h	70
14	2-Me	Cl	20	3h	55
15	2-NO_2	Cl	3.5	3i	25

^a Reactions were conducted with 1 equiv of the aryl halide 1 (0.25 M) and 2 equiv of TMS enol ether 2. Yield is based on the aryl halide. ^b 2-(Di-*tert*-butylphosphino)biphenyl (6 mol %) was used instead of *t*-Bu₃P. ^c Carried out in refluxing toluene.

The standard conditions described above were utilized to perform the arylation of **2** with various aryl halides, and the results are summarized in Table 1.^{20,21} The arylation of **2** with *p*-bromoanisole under the same conditions afforded cyclohexanone **3a** in 78% yield (entry 2). Arylation product **3a** was obtained in slightly lower yield when the bulky ligand 2-(di-*tert*-butylphosphino)biphenyl was used (entry 3). Even the corresponding aryl chloride gave the arylated product in good yield, provided the reaction was carried out at a slightly higher temperature, in refluxing toluene (entry 4). By contrast, the corresponding triflate was unreactive and was recovered cleanly (by ¹H NMR) after 18 h. Other electronrich aryl halides were also effective coupling partners (entries

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6, 11-14). The successful use of o-chlorotoluene, in particular, is noteworthy, since it is both electron-rich and sterically encumbered. Aryl halides possessing an electron-withdrawing group at the para position gave the respective arylated products in good yields (entries 7-10). By comparison, o-nitro-substituted aryl halides (Cl, Br, I) were poor arylating agents, and only o-chloronitrobenzene gave any of the arylation product (entry 15). Some of the above arylations were also carried out successfully in toluene at 80 °C instead of refluxing benzene.

To explore the generality of the arylation protocol, additional TMS enol ethers were prepared and subjected to standard arylation protocol (Table 2).¹⁶ Entry 1 highlights

Table 2. Intermolecular Pd-Catalyzed Arylation of Different TMS Enol Ether Substrates^a

entry	ArX	TMS-ether	solvent	time (h)	product	% yield
1	Arl	OTMS 4	benzene	21	O Ar 5	72
2	Arl	OTMS 6	benzene	21	O 7	ır 58
3	ArBr	OTMS	toluene	26		Ar 70
۸	//	8			9	
Ar:		OMe				

 a Reactions were conducted with 1 equiv of the aryl halide (0.25 M), 2 equiv of TMS-enol ether, 2.5 mol % of Pd₂(dba)₃, 6 mol % of t-Bu₃P, 2 equiv of Bu₃SnF, PhH, reflux.

an important feature of the silyl enol ether arylation method: arylations take place regiospecifically. Thus, arylation of enol ether **4**, prepared easily and regiospecifically by methylcuprate addition to 2-cyclohexenone,²² with *p*-iodoanisole gave arylated product **5** as a single regio- and stereoisomer in 72% yield.²³ Evidently, the putative tin and

palladium enolate intermediates do not equilibrate to the regioisomeric, less-hindered enolates. Norbornanone-derived enol ether **6** reacted slowly with *p*-iodoanisole to produce the expected arylation product (**7**) in 58% yield together with recovered *p*-iodoanisole (entry 2). Also slow to react was the acyclic enol ether **8**.8 This reaction was carried out in refluxing benzene, using *p*-bromoanisole as the arylating agent, and examination of the reaction mixture by ¹H NMR after 9 h showed the presence of primarily unreacted **8**. In refluxing toluene, however, this arylation proceeded well and afforded **9** in 70% yield (entry 3). When this reaction was carried out with *p*-iodoanisole, it proceeded in low yield and produced unindentified byproducts. A competition experiment (eq 4) showed that the aryl iodide is consumed faster

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{OTMS} \ 2.5 \ \text{mol} \ \% \ \text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3 \\ \text{$6 \ \text{mol} \ \% \ \text{t-Bu}_3\text{P}$} \\ \text{$1 \ \text{equiv}} \ \ 1 \ \text{equiv} \ \ 1 \ \text{equiv} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 6 \ \text{mol} \ \% \ \text{t-Bu}_3\text{P} \\ \hline 2 \ \text{equiv} \ \text{$Bu}_3\text{SnF} \\ \text{PhH, reflux, 6 h} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{OMe} \\ \text{$-Ca. 8: 3: 1 by 1H NMR} \end{array} \tag{4}$$

than the bromide, consistent with the expected relative rates of oxidative addition of Pd⁰ to aryl halides. These observations indicate that oxidative addition of Pd⁰ onto the aryl halide is not the rate determining step in the reaction and suggest that the Pd-intermediate formed from the aryl iodide is less competent, due to either poor reactivity or stability, than that from the aryl bromide at proceeding to the product.

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(18) This combination was selected as it was expected to be a challenging arylation, since not only is the phenylation cyclohexanone reported to be low yielding (ref 8), but the oxidative addition to the electron-rich *p*-iodoanisole was expected to be slow.

(19) An extensive screening of reaction conditions was carried out. Pd sources examined: PdCl₂(Ph₃P)₂, PdCl₂(*o*-Tol₃P)₂, PdCl₂, Pd₂(dba)₃, Pd(OAc)₂, or PtCl₂(PhCN)₂. Phosphine ligands: BINAP, Tol-BINAP, *t*- Bu₃P, (*t*-BuCH₂)₃P, 2-(di-*tert*-butylphosphino)biphenyl, 'Hex₃P, Ph₃P, (*o*-Tol)₃As, Ph₃As, and (*i*-PrO)₃P. Fluoride sources: Bu₃SnF, LiF, NaF, CsF, CuF₂, ZnF₂, ZrF₄, KF, ZnCl₂, SnCl₄, or Me₄NF. Solvents: benzene, toluene, DMF, or THF. Additives: LiCl, NaOAc and *t*-BuOK.

(20) General procedure for Pd-catalyzed arylation: A mixture containing TMS enol ether (1 mmol), aryl halide (0.5 mmol), 2.5 mol % of Pd₂(dba)₃ (11.4 mg), and Bu₃SnF (309 mg, 1 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere was treated with a solution of 'Bu₃P (7.5 μ L) in benzene (2 mL) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether (20 mL) (when the precipitate of tin residue was formed, it was removed by decantation with ether), washed with 1 N aqueous NaOH twice (5 mL each) followed by brine (2 \times 5 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

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The synthetic utility of this method was further developed through the examination of substrates in which the arylation would take place intramolecularly (Table 3). ¹⁴ Treatment of

Table 3. Intramolecular Pd-Catalyzed Arylation

entry	TMS-ether	solvent	time (h)	product ^a	% yield
1	OTMS Br	benzene	21	0	62 ^c
2 (OTMS Br	toluene	21	0 13	66°
3 ^b Et0	OTMS Br D ₂ C 14	benzene		O ₂ C 15	84
4	OTMS Br	benzene	21 (17] 46 ^d

 a Standard conditions: 0.25 M of TMS enol ether, 5 mol % of Pd₂(dba)₃, 12 mol % of t-Bu₃P, 1 equiv of Bu₃SnF, reflux. b 2.5 mol % of Pd₂(dba)₃ and 6 mol % of t-Bu₃P were used. c Uncyclized ketone was isolated in 12% yield. d Uncyclized ketone was isolated in 24% yield.

TMS enol ether **10** with 1 equiv of Bu₃SnF, 5 mol % of Pd₂(dba)₃, and 12 mol % of *t*-Bu₃P in benzene furnished [3.3.1] bicyclic product **11** in 62% yield together with 12% of the uncyclized ketone, corresponding to the hydrolysis product of **11**. The arylative cyclization of **12** required higher temperature (refluxing toluene) and gave **13** in 66% yield, accompanied by the uncyclized ketone (12%). In both cases, lower loadings of Pd₂(dba)₃ (2.5 mol %) and *t*-Bu₃P (6 mol %) resulted in slower reactions and increased amounts of the ketone arising from hydrolysis of the starting material. On the other hand, the reaction of **14** with 2.5 mol % of Pd₂(dba)₃ and 6 mol % of *t*-Bu₃P in refluxing benzene

afforded arylation product **15** high yield (entry 3). All three of the entries are noteworthy in that they produce a [3.3.1]-bicyclic array. The final entry shows the construction of tetrahydrofluorenone **17** through the intramolecular arylation method. In this case the arylated product (**17**), assumed to be cis, was formed in 46% yield along with 24% of the recovered ketone.

A plausible mechanism for the Pd-catalyzed arylation of TMS enol ethers is shown in Scheme 1. The starting TMS

Scheme 1

OTMS

R1

$$R^1$$
 R^2

Bu₃SnF

OSnBu₃
 R^1
 R^2
 R^2

enol ether is expected to react with Bu_3SnF to generate tin enolate $\bf A$, which is under equilibrium with α -stannyl ketone $\bf B.^{8,24}$ The reaction of the tin enolate with Ar-Pd-X would produce the transmetalation product, Pd-enolates $\bf C.^{9-11}$ Reductive elimination of $\bf C$ to give a $\bf C-C$ bond then gives the arylation product and regenerates $\bf Pd^0$.

In summary, Pd-catalyzed arylation of TMS enol ethers was achieved in both inter- and intramolecular manner by use of Pd₂(dba)₃ and *t*-Bu₃P in the presence of Bu₃SnF. Electron-poor and electron-rich aryl halides, including iodides, bromides, and chlorides, participated in the present arylation. The arylations proceeded regiospecificity and with a range of substrates.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of arylated compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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