# Use of the 2-Pyridinesulfonyloxy Leaving Group for the Fast Copper-Catalyzed Coupling Reaction at Secondary Alkyl Carbons with **Grignard Reagents**

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Literature results

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Present work

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<sup>|</sup><sub>R<sup>2</sup></sub> 0 0 0

с

Working hypothesis

 $C + R_2Cu(MqX)$ 

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Supporting Information

Organic

Letters

ABSTRACT: Investigation of the copper-catalyzed coupling reaction of 2-pyridinesulfonates with Grignard reagents revealed that reactions with catalytic  $Cu(OTf)_2$  were completed in <40 min. The results differed from those of the previous CuI-catalyzed reactions of tosylates in the presence of additives (LiOMe and TMEDA) for 12-24 h. It was shown that the preferred coordination of the leaving group to the reagents accelerated the reaction. Successful reagents were MeMgCl and other RMgX. Complete inversion was established.

he metal-catalyzed coupling reaction of secondary alcohol derivatives with organometallics is a promising method for the construction of a secondary alkyl framework,<sup>1</sup> Allylic, propargylic, and benzylic electrophiles have been well studied, and the stereochemistry has been established.<sup>2</sup> The reactions are promoted by the existing  $\pi$ -carbon moieties. In contrast, coupling at a secondary carbon of inactivated alkyl electrophiles has been published occasionally. Thus, the Ni- and Fecatalyzed versions<sup>3,4</sup> seem to be a radical process.<sup>5</sup> However, the Ni-catalyzed coupling of racemic substrates possessing a certain functional group proceeds enantioselectively in the presence of a chiral ligand.<sup>6</sup> Ag- and Cu-catalyzed coupling reactions of secondary alkyl halides have also been reported, but their stereochemical aspect has not been investigated. Meanwhile, the Cu-catalyzed coupling reaction of tosylates reported by Burns<sup>9</sup> was reinvestigated by Liu, who found RMgBr/CuI/LiOMe/TMEDA for good yields of B from tosylates A and established an inversion of the stereochemistry<sup>10</sup> (Scheme 1, eq 1). In this reagent system, LiOMe is indispensable, whereas TMEDA was added to suppress the formation of olefins,<sup>11</sup> although the degree of olefin formation was not reported. Later, the coupling was applied by Negishi,<sup>12</sup> who found that 2,2'-bipyridyl was a better ligand than TMEDA. This protocol required a long period of time (24 h), and MeMgX was not examined despite the existence of attractive methyl-substituted bioactive compounds.<sup>12,13</sup> In this regard, we found that the reactivity of MeMgX was lower than that of other RMgBr compounds (vide infra). To break through these limitations, we focused our attention on the design of a leaving group.

On the basis of the transition-state model for the coupling of MeMgBr and Me<sub>2</sub>CuLi·LiCl,<sup>14</sup> the reagent or its appendage was considered to bind to the oxygen atom of the sulfonyl group in tosylate A. Furthermore, we speculated that the

Scheme 1. Background and Proposal of a Highly Reactive Leaving Group

RMgBr. Cul (cat.) LIOMe, TMEDA

THF, 0 °C, 12–24 h

RMgX, Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (cat.)

THF, -20~0 °C, 15-40 min

ò.

complex D

OTBS

RMgBr, Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (cat.)

THF, -20~0 °C, 15-40 min

inversion

TBSO



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Letter

\* .R<sup>^</sup>

R = Me, Et, *i*-Bu,

(1)

(2)

(3)

*i*-Pr.

p-To

 $\dot{R}^2$ 

.R

в

 $\dot{R}^2$ 

в

 $\dot{R}^2$ 

#### Table 1. Preliminary Study of the Coupling



<sup>a</sup>Olefins 5: a mixture of PhCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CHMe (5a), and Ph-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub> (5b). <sup>b</sup>Olefins 10: a mixture of PhCH<sub>2</sub>CH= CH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OTBS (10a) and Ph(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>OTBS (10b). <sup>c</sup>3/5a/5b = 85:10:5 (entry 1) and 88:7:5 (entry 3). <sup>d</sup>4/5a/5b = 77:14:9 (entry 4) and 88:9:3 (entry 5). <sup>e</sup>Carried out with Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (0.1 equiv) without additives (LiOMe, TMEDA). <sup>f</sup>9/10a/10b = 76:13:11.

#### Scheme 2. Synthesis of Enantioenriched 2-Pyridinesulfonates



<sup>*a*</sup>RuCl[(*R*,*R*)-TsDPEN](*p*-cymene). <sup>*b*</sup>Determined by chiral HPLC. <sup>*c*</sup>Purity for (*R*)-16.

2-PySO<sub>3</sub>. Herein, we report the coupling reaction of 2pyridinesulfonates **C**.

First, the coupling reaction of tosylate 1 with CyMgBr (2 equiv) was carried out at 0 °C in the presence of CuI (0.1 equiv), LiOMe (1 equiv), and TMEDA (0.2 equiv) according to the procedure described in the literature.<sup>10</sup> Tosylate 1 was indeed consumed in 12 h (shorter than the reported time of 24 h) to produce 3, but olefins 5 were produced as byproducts (Table 1, entry 1, footnote c). In contrast, reaction of 1 with MeMgCl (2 equiv) for 24 h produced 4 only in an 11% yield, with recovery of tosylate 1 in 52% yield (entry 2), indicating that the reactivity of MeMgCl was lower than that of CyMgBr.

On the other hand, the coupling of 2-pyridinesulfonate 2 with CyMgBr was remarkably fast (in 15 min) (entry 3). The ratio of 3 and byproducts 5 was similar to that obtained with

#### Table 2. Examination of Various Copper Salts

Ph OSO <sub>2</sub> -2-Py (S)-7 (95.7% ee)		<mark>Me</mark> MgCl Cu cat. (0	(2 equiv) 1 equiv)	Ph Me Of L I J	२	
		THF, 0 °C or –20 °C		a → (R)-9, R = TBS 10 <sup>b</sup> (R)-18, R = H		
entry	Cu cat.	temp (°C)	time (min)	(R)-9 (%)	es	10 (%)
1	CuI	0	15	59	88.3	17
2	$Cu(OTf)_2$	0	30	72	98.3	21
3	$Cu(OTf)_2$	-20	30	68	99.2	19
4	$Cu(OMe)_2$	-20	20	63	99.5	16
5	$Cu(OAc)_2$	-20	30	61	98.2	14
6 <sup>c</sup>	Cu(acac)	-20	30	65	00.0	20

<sup>a</sup>Treated as follows for obtaining er by chiral HPLC: (i) OsO<sub>4</sub> (cat.)/ NMO, aq. acetone; (ii) *p*-TsOH·H<sub>2</sub>O, MeOH. <sup>b</sup>Table 1, footnote b. <sup>c</sup>MeMgCl (4 equiv).

#### Scheme 3. Coupling of (S)-7 with MeMgX (X = Br, I)







tosylate 1 (footnote c). The coupling reaction with MeMgCl was completed as well and produced 4 and olefins 5 in 59% and 18% yields, respectively (entry 4). The finding that the leaving potency of the 2-pyridinesulfonyloxy group was higher than that of the tosyl group was also confirmed by a competitive experiment using a 1:1 mixture of 1 and 2 (see the SI). The reaction did not proceed without the catalyst (see the SI).

Next, the coupling reaction of tosylate **6** with CyMgBr and MeMgCl disclosed that the reactivity was sensitively affected by the substituent that is bigger than methyl (entries 6 and 7). The results suggest that the substituent interferes markedly in the formation of the complex. A similar tendency could be read from the literature coupling of tosylates possessing an Me or

Ph OSO <sub>2</sub> -2-Py OTBS	EtMgCI or RMgBr /Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> 0 °C, 20 min	Ph <b>R</b> OTBS → 30, R = Et, 55%	(1)		
Ph_OSO <sub>2</sub> -2-Py	MeMgCl /Cu(OTf)₂	31, R = <i>i</i> -Bu, 63% 32, R = <i>i</i> -Pr, 44% 33, R = <i>ρ</i> -Tol, 52% Ph Me			
	0 °C, 20 min		(2)		
(R)-17	MaMaCL/Cul/	(S) <b>-34</b> , <sup>6</sup> 56%			
(D) <b>17</b>	LiOMe/TMEDA	(5) 34 63%	(3) <sup>c</sup>		
(17)-11	0 °C, 20 min				
Ph OSO <sub>2</sub> -2-Py	MeMgCI/Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	Ph Me	(4)		
24	–20 °C, 20 min	<b>35</b> , 43%	. ,		
24 –	MeMgCI/Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> / LiOMe/TMEDA	<b>35</b> 39%	(5) <sup>c</sup>		
	–20 °C, 30 min				
OSO <sub>2</sub> -2-Py	MeMgCI/Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	ме → л-Ви / ОРМВ	(6)		
25	–20 °C, 40 min	<b>36</b> , 48%			
OS	80 <sub>2</sub> -2-Py	Me			
	MeMgCI/Cu(O1f)		(7)		
Br' ~ 26	–20 °C, 20 min	Br <sup>7</sup> <b>37</b> , 73%			
26	MeMgCI/Cu(OTf)₂/ LiOMe/TMEDA → 37, 63% 0 °C, 20 min				
	<mark>i-Bu</mark> MgBr (4 equi∖ Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> (0.1 equi	″ ≌→↓Į↓	(9)		
2-PySO <sub>3</sub> <sup>~</sup> <sup>^</sup> O 27	Bz 0 °C, 20 min	<b>38</b> , <sup>d</sup> 63%			
	MeMgCI/Cu(O1		(10)		
28	–20 °C, 20 mi	n <b>39</b> , <sup>d</sup> 76%	()		
	MeMgCI/Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> / LiOMe/TMEDA				
28	0 °C, 20 min	<b>39</b> , 60%	(11) <sup>c</sup>		
твоо-С	RMgX/Cu(OT		(12)		
29	–20 or 0 °C, 20-3	<b>40</b> , R = Me, <sup>d</sup> 72% <b>41</b> , R = Et, 58% <b>42</b> , R = <i>i</i> -Bu, 74% <b>43</b> , R = <i>i</i> -Pr, <sup>e</sup> 71%			
	MeMgCI/Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> /	<b>44</b> , R = <i>p</i> -Tol, <sup><i>e</i></sup> 729	%		
29	LiOMe/TMEDA	→ <b>40</b> , 68%	(13) <sup>c</sup>		
	–20 °C, 20 min				

Scheme 5. Coupling Reactions of Alkyl 2-Pyridinesulfonates<sup>a</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup>Reactions were run with RMgX (2 equiv) and Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (0.1 equiv) in THF at -20 or 0 °C for 20 min. The olefin byproducts were removed by OsO<sub>4</sub>-catalyzed oxidation or by column chromatography. <sup>*b*</sup>The configuration was determined by  $[\alpha]_D$  value. <sup>*c*</sup>Control experiment with RMgX (2 equiv), Cu salt (0.1 equiv), LiOMe (1 equiv), and TMEDA (0.2 equiv) in THF. <sup>*d*</sup>The stereochemistry was established by comparison of the NMR data with those reported (see the SI). <sup>*c*</sup>The *cis* stereochemistry of 43 and 44 were determined by the synthesis and NOESY analysis, respectively (see the SI).

alkyl substituent.<sup>10</sup> In contrast, the reaction of 2-pyridinesulfonate 7 with MeMgCl afforded 9 in 73% yield (entry 8). These results strongly suggest that the formation of complex D is the important step. Further investigation led to the discovery that the use of the additives (LiOMe and TMEDA) was not essential for the coupling of 2-pyridinesulfonate 2 (Table 1, entry 5).

The additive-free procedure found in Table 1, entry 5, was applied to coupling of enantioenriched (*S*)-7 with MeMgX (X = Cl, Br, I) to explore the stereochemical outcome and catalytic activity of other copper salts. This substrate was synthesized with 95.7% ee from ketone 11 via the asymmetric transfer hydrogenation<sup>17</sup> (Scheme 2). Propionaldehyde-derived ketone 12 was also converted to (*R*)-17, which was later subjected to the coupling reaction.

The coupling reaction of (S)-7 with MeMgCl was followed by oxidative removal of olefins 10 and TBS desilylation (Table 2, footnote a). The absolute configuration of the resulting alcohol (R)-18 was determined by comparing the  $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$  value with the published data,<sup>18</sup> and the enantiomeric ratio (er) of (*R*)-18 determined by chiral HPLC was converted to the enantiospecificity (es).<sup>19</sup> CuI gave (*R*)-9 with a somewhat low enantiospecificity (es) of 88.3% (entry 1). We deemed that the S<sub>N</sub>2 reaction with the iodide ion originating from CuI took place ahead of the coupling. Based on the result, copper salts consisting of less nucleophilic counteranions were next examined. The catalytic activity of CuCl and CuCN were marginal and low, respectively (data not shown). The Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed coupling shown in entry 8 of Table 1 was run with (S)-7 to afford (R)-9 in 72% yield with 98.3% es (entry 2). A reaction at -20 °C gave similar yield and ee in 30 min (entry 3), indicating that strictly controlled reaction conditions are not necessary. Similarly high levels of es were recorded with  $Cu(OMe)_2$  and  $Cu(OAc)_2$ , but the yields were slightly low (entries 4 and 5). Cu(acac)<sub>2</sub> required 4 equiv of MeMgCl (entries 6). Olefins 10 produced in all cases in a range of 14-22% were roughly a similar level to that observed using the published reagent/catalyst system (Table 1, entry 8). Consequently, the protocol using  $Cu(OTf)_2$  at temperatures between -20 to 0 °C for 15-30 min was used for further study.

Next, MeMgX (X = Br, I) were used for the coupling reaction to determine the effect of the bromide and iodide anions (Scheme 3). The coupling reaction with MeMgBr proceeded with 99% es to afford (R)-18 in 55% yield. However, MeMgI gave a mixture of 9 and iodide 19 in 16% and 37% yields, respectively. The competing iodination might account for the partial racemization observed for the CuI-catalyzed coupling (Table 2, entry 1).

Structurally similar leaving groups or those used for allylic substitution were subjected to  $Cu(OTf)_2$ -catalyzed substitution with MeMgCl (Scheme 4). 3-Pyridinesulfonate 20 was less reactive than 7 and afforded 9 in 54% yield after 4 h at rt. A worse result was the production of alcohol 15 from 4-pyridinesulfonate 21. These results support the notation that the coordination of the leaving group to  $Mg^{2+}$  is a crucial step. The picolinoxy leaving group developed previously for the allylic substitution of secondary allylic substrates<sup>20</sup> did not promote coupling of 22 and instead afforded alcohol 15. Phosphate 23 was completely unreactive.

In order to evaluate the  $Cu(OTf)_2$ -catalyzed coupling reaction established above, we applied the reaction to pyridinesulfonates delineated in Scheme 5. Several reactions were also examined in the presence of the additives (LiOMe, TMEDA). In addition to the products, the olefins and in some cases the corresponding alcohols were coproduced as described in the Supporting Information. The olefins were eliminated by OsO4-catalyzed dihydroxylation or chromatography to afford pure coupling products. In all entries, the coupling reactions at -20 or 0 °C were completed in 20-40 min. Coupling reaction of 7 with EtMgCl and i-BuMgBr gave 30 and 31 in moderate yields, whereas *i*-Pr was delivered in a somewhat low yield (eq 1). The p-Tol group was attached in 52% yield even though generally being less nucleophilic than alkyl reagents. Enantioenriched substrate (R)-17 afforded somewhat volatile (S)-34 (eq 2) and the inversion reaction was proven by the S configuration, which was confirmed by comparison of  $[\alpha]_D$  with the published data:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +18 (c 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); lit.<sup>21</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{25.5}$  +18.1 (c 1.7, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). A reaction examined in the presence of LiOMe and TMEDA also gave (S)-34 in 62% yield ( $[\alpha]_D^{22}$  +17 (c 1.70, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)) (eq 3). Substituents on 24 and 25 affected the reaction to afford 35 and 36 in somewhat low yields (eqs 4 and 6). Once again, the noticeable effect of LiOMe and TMEDA was marginally observed on the reaction of 24 (eq 5). In contrast to these substrates, substrate 26 possessing the methyl substituent underwent a coupling reaction without and with LiOMe/ TMEDA to afford 37 in 73% and 63% yields, respectively (eqs 7 and 8). The Br-phenyl bond was not damaged during the reaction. Pyridinesulfonate 27 stereoselectively afforded 38 (eq 9). This product was previously synthesized by the CuIcatalyzed coupling reaction of the corresponding tosylate under modified reaction conditions using 2,2'-bipyridyl but took 24 h at 0  $^{\circ}$ C.<sup>12</sup>

Pyridinesulfonates 28 and 29 derived from stereoisomeric cyclopentanols also proceeded stereoselectively to afford 39 and 40 in 76% and 72% yields, respectively, on reactions with MeMgCl/Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (cat.) (eqs 10 and 12). The NMR data of the derived alcohols were consistent with the published data.<sup>22</sup> Similar results were also obtained by the LiOMe/TMEDA-assisted reaction (eqs 11 and 13). Other Grignard reagents produced coupling products 41–44 stereoselectively from 29 in 58–74% yields.

In conclusion, the 2-pyridinesulfonyloxy leaving group designed with the expectations mentioned above was a new booster that allowed the alkyl coupling reaction to be completed in 15-40 min at -20 or 0 °C. The use of Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> as a catalyst was sufficient for the reaction, and the additives (LiOMe, TMEDA) that were indispensable for the previous couplings of tosylates were no longer necessary. Importantly, the present reaction could be applied to the less reactive MeMgCl.

# ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **S** Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.or-glett.9b00976.

Experimental procedures, compound characterization data, chiral HPLC analysis, and NMR spectra (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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