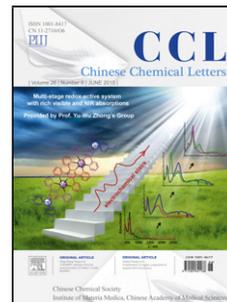


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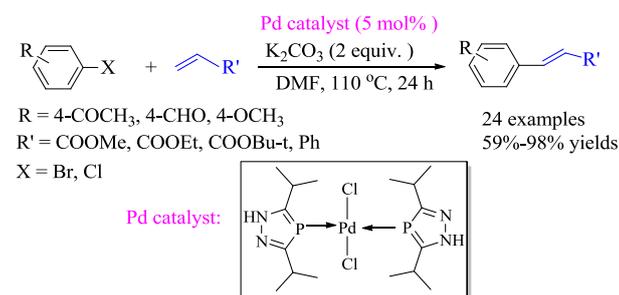
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Communication

Monodentate phosphorus-coordinated palladium(II) complexes as new catalyst for Mizoroki-Heck reaction of aryl halides with electron-deficient olefins

Fang Zhao^{a,§}, Li Xin^{a,§}, Yingying Zhang^b, Xuefeng Jia^{a,b,*}^aSchool of Chemical and Material Science, Shanxi Normal University, Linfen 041004, China^bDepartment of Chemistry, Modern College of Arts and Sciences, Shanxi Normal University, Linfen 041000, China**Graphical abstract**

Four novel monodentate phosphorus-coordinated palladium(II) complexes derived from 3,5-disubstituted-1H-1,2,4-diazaphospholes were developed as efficient catalyst for Mizoroki-Heck reactions of aryl halides with electron-deficient olefins. The role of these monophosphine ligands in catalysis was illustrated by control experiments using Pd salt and ligands as combined catalyst.

ABSTRACT

Four novel palladium(II) complexes coordinated by phosphorus atoms from both 3,5-disubstituted-1H-1,2,4-diazaphospholes in monodentate fashion were developed as efficient catalyst for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction of aryl halides with electron-deficient olefins. The coupling reaction of aryl halide bearing different functional groups with olefin derivatives took place and the corresponding products were isolated in good to excellent yields under optimal conditions. The procedure exhibits good functional group tolerance and wide substrate scope. This Mizoroki-Heck reaction was further achieved using Pd(OAc)₂ and 3,5-diisopropyl-1H-1,2,4-diazaphospholes as combined catalyst, which provide the convenient and alternative method in organic synthesis

Keywords:

Palladium(II) complexes
 Monodentate phosphine ligands
 Mizoroki-Heck reaction
 Aryl halides
 Olefins

Since 1971, the Mizoroki-Heck reaction [1-3] between aryl halides and olefins is one of the most efficient methods for the C-C bond formation and it has been widely used in synthesis of pharmaceuticals [4], agrochemicals [5], and natural products [6]. In the past few years, the Mizoroki-Heck reactions were successfully achieved with different metal catalysts such as Pd [7-9], Rh [10-12], Cu [13,14], Ni [15,16] and so on. Initially, the Mizoroki-Heck cross-coupling reaction using palladium complexes with various phosphorous

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ligands [17-21] as catalyst was investigated. Bulky electron-rich phosphine-based and phosphorus-containing palladacycles exhibited good catalytic activity for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction [22-23]. In 2010, Diebold and co-worker reported palladium complexes based on polystyrene-supported phosphine ligands as reusable catalysts for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction [24]. In 2015, palladium complexes bearing meta-terarylphosphine ligands was synthesized and used as catalyst for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction of (hetero)aryl bromides and olefins by Tay's groups [25]. However, most phosphine-based palladium complexes have some drawbacks of expensive, poisonous, air- and moisture-sensitive which limited their application in many fields [26-28]. Therefore more attention was paid on palladium complexes with nitrogen-based ligands [29-31]. For example, N-heterocyclic carbene-based palladium complexes [32-35] and pincer palladium(II) complexes [36-38] showed good catalytic performance for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction. Beyond that, dinuclear palladium complexes with rotaxane were employed in ring-closure Mizoroki-Heck reaction by Suzuki's groups in 2011 [39]. At the same year, palladium complexes with anilido-oxazolate [40] or *N*-[1-alkylpyridin-4(1*H*)-ylidene]amides ligands [41] were developed as efficient catalyst for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction. In 2012, Keske and co-worker documented the synthesis of 1,2,3-triazol-5-ylidene mesoionic carbene-based PEPPSI palladium complexes and their catalytic activity in Mizoroki-Heck reaction was investigated [42]. Although great progress had been made in this field, the design of palladium complexes containing novel ligands and their catalytic application in the Mizoroki-Heck reaction is therefore a crucial target.

In view of the application value of palladium(II) complexes in organic synthesis, we try to develop new heterocycles as efficient ligands for preparation of palladium complexes. We found that the synthesis of 1*H*-1,2,4-diazaphospholes containing low-coordinated phosphorous and nitrogen atoms was early reported in 1984 [43]. However, the catalytic application of metal complexes with 1*H*-1,2,4-diazaphospholes is rarely studied in spite of its good coordinating properties to metal. Recently we have accidentally synthesized a series of phosphorus-coordinated palladium(II) complexes (Fig. 1) derived from 3,5-disubstituted-1*H*-1,2,4-diazaphospholes {H[3,5-*R*₂dp] (R = H, *i*-Pr, Ph, *t*-Bu)} as unique heteroatom-containing monophosphine ligands and explored their catalytic activity in Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reactions [44]. The structure of the catalyst was confirmed by X-ray single-crystal diffraction of palladium(II) complexes (**IV**) [44]. In consideration of our continuing interest on catalytic application of these new palladium(II) complexes, we herein report catalytic performance of novel phosphorus-coordinated palladium(II) complexes for Mizoroki-Heck reaction of aryl halide with electron-deficient olefins.

Firstly, the catalytic activities of palladium complexes **I-IV** were examined by using 4-bromoacetophenone (**1b**) and methyl acrylate (**2a**) as the standard substrates (detail experimental procedure and characterization data of the products **3**, please see Supporting information). When we used palladium complex (5 mol%) as catalyst, K₂CO₃ as base, DMF as solvent to perform the model reaction at 110 °C for 24 h, the desired product **3ba** was obtained in moderate to good yield (Table 1, entries 1-4). These results demonstrated that four novel phosphorus-coordinated palladium complexes could catalyze Mizoroki-Heck reaction of **1b** with **2a**. Among them, complex **II** was obviously the best catalyst for this reaction. Next, we studied the effect of different bases on the model reaction. When K₂CO₃ was switched to Cs₂CO₃, Na₂CO₃ or KOH, the products **3ba** was isolated in lower yields (Table 1, entries 5-7). We also tried to use Et₃N as organic base to perform the reaction and the 86% yield was afforded (Table 1, entry 8). So K₂CO₃ was the best choice. When the reaction of **1b** with **2a** performed in DMSO or dioxane, the yield of **3ba** obviously decreased (Table 1, entries 9 and 10). This indicated that DMF should be the best solvent. Then the effect of temperature on the reaction was also investigated. Changing the reaction temperature to 100 °C or 130 °C, the yield of **3ba** had a slight decrease (Table 1, entries 11 and 12). Finally, the Mizoroki-Heck coupling reaction of **1b** with **2a** was carried out in the presence of 3 mol% and 1 mol% palladium catalyst, providing the product **3ba** in 80% and 71% yields respectively (Table 1, entries 13 and 14). However, no improved yield was observed when 10 mol% palladium complex **II** was used as catalyst (Table 1, entry 15). Thus the optimized conditions were established for exploring substrate scope of this Mizoroki-Heck reaction: palladium complex **II** (5mol%) as catalyst, K₂CO₃ (2 equiv.) as base, and **1b/2a** = 1:1.5 in DMF (1 mL) at 110 °C for 24 h.

With optimal reaction conditions in hand, the reactions of different aryl bromide with methyl acrylate (**2a**) were firstly tested to evaluate the substrate scope of this Mizoroki-Heck reaction. As shown in Table 2, the substrates with electron-withdrawing groups such as 4-formyl (**1a**) and 4-acetyl (**1b**) were tolerated and the desired products were afforded in 97% and 89% yields (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). Comparatively, the substrates with no substituent (**1c**) or electron-donating groups such as 4-methoxy (**1d**) reacted with methyl acrylate (**2a**) to furnish the products in 81% and 79% yields, showing a lower reactivity (Table 2, entries 3 and 4). Then we explored the reactivity of other acrylate with respect to the ester group. When ethyl acrylate (**2b**) was used as substrate to react with different aryl bromide (**1a-d**), the corresponding products were isolated in 71%-74% yields (Table 2, entries 5-8). The results illustrate that the activity of ethyl acrylate (**2b**) was lower than methyl acrylate (**2a**). However, *tert*-butyl acrylate (**2c**) was further chosen as an olefin source and reacted with **1a-d**, leading to the desired products in higher yields (Table 2, entries 9-12). Subsequently, styrene (**2d**) was selected as coupling partner and provided the corresponding products in 69%-73% yields (Table 2, entries 13-16). These experimental results demonstrated that the substituents on olefin substrates affected this Mizoroki-Heck reaction activity, which may be attributed to the electron density change of carbon-carbon double bonds and the steric hindrance of ester group on acrylate. Finally, the Mizoroki-Heck reaction of 2-bromothiophene (**1e**) with methyl acrylate (**2a**) was carried out and the product (**3ea**) was isolated in 80% yield, indicating that the heteroaryl bromide could be tolerated as good coupling partner (Table 2, entry 17).

In addition, the activity of aryl chloride was also tested. To our delight, We found that the cross-coupling reaction of 4-chloroacetophenone (**1e**) with olefins derivatives such as **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d** proceeded well, giving the desired product in moderate to good yields (Table 2, entries 18-21). Then several different aryl chlorides such as 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (**1g**), chlorobenzene (**1h**) and 4-chloroanisole (**1i**) reacted with **2a** to furnish the desired products in good yields (Table 2, entries 22-24), which indicated that aryl chlorides were also suitable substrates in the reaction.

In order to illustrate the role of these monophosphine ligands in catalysis, control experiments using Pd salt as the catalyst under the standard conditions were performed. We used different monophosphine ligands in combination with PdCl₂ or Pd(OAc)₂ for the Mizoroki-Heck coupling reaction between 4-bromoacetophenone (**1b**) and methyl acrylate (**2a**). As shown in Table 3, the substituents on the ligands obviously affected the yields of the product **3ba** (Table 3, entries 1-4 and 6-9). Among them, H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp] exhibited higher efficiency than other three ligands, which might be attributed to electronic effects and steric hindrance of substituents. Compared with H[3,5-R₂dp] (R = H, Ph, *t*-Bu), H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp] was more suitable for this coupling reaction. Furthermore, we found that the combination of H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp] with Pd(OAc)₂ was better catalytic system than those with PdCl₂ (Table 3, entry 7 vs. entry 2). When no ligands were used, the yields of **3ba** significantly decreased (Table 3, entries 5 and 10). These results demonstrated that the ligands were crucial for this transformation.

Thus we employed Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%) and H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp] (10 mol%) as combined catalyst for the Mizoroki-Heck reactions. As summarized in Table 4, the reaction of several aryl bromide such as **1a**, **1b**, **1c** and **1d** with methyl acrylate (**2a**) performed well and offered the desired products in moderate to good yields (Table 4, entries 1-4). When the coupling reaction between 4-bromoanisole (**1d**) and ethyl acrylate (**2b**) was carried out under combined catalyst system, the product (**3db**) was isolated in 67% yield (Table 4, entry 5). The coupling of bromobenzene (**1c**) with *tert*-butyl acrylate (**2c**) also took place and led to the product (**3cc**) in 70% yield (Table 4, entry 6). We also observed that 4-bromobenzaldehyde (**1a**) reacted with styrene (**2d**) to provide the product (**3ad**) in 63% yield (Table 4, entry 7). These data showed that the different aryl bromide and olefin substrates could be tolerated under this catalytic system. More importantly, the reaction of aryl chlorides such as **1f**, **1g**, **1h**, **1i** and **1j** with methyl acrylate (**2a**) also furnished the corresponding product in 54-86% yield (Table 4, entries 8-11). Therefore we believe that this alternative catalytic system might be more attractive and convenient for application of Mizoroki-Heck reaction in organic synthesis.

In conclusion, we have developed Mizoroki-Heck cross-coupling reaction of aryl halides and electron-deficient olefins using novel phosphorus-coordinated palladium (**II**) complexes derived from 3,5-disubstituted-1*H*-1,2,4-diazaphospholes as efficient catalyst. The experiment results demonstrated that the reaction of aryl halide bearing different groups (-CHO, -COCH₃, -OCH₃, 2-thienyl) with electron-deficient olefin derivatives performed well and high yields (up to 98%) were obtained under optimal conditions. The role of

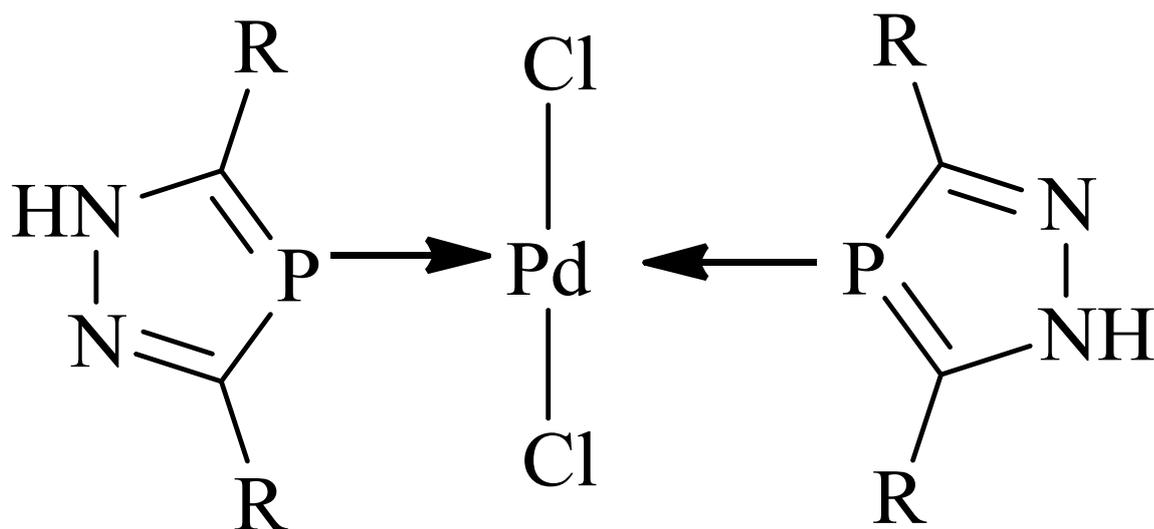
monophosphine ligands in catalysis was manifested by control experiments. Furthermore, the Mizoroki-Heck reaction of different substrates were achieved under Pd(OAc)₂ and H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp] combined systems, providing the direct and convenient methods for C-C bond formation in organic synthesis.

Acknowledgments

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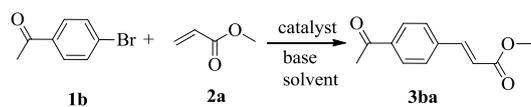
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$R = \text{H}$ (**I**), *i*-Pr (**II**), Ph (**III**), *t*-Bu (**IV**)

Fig. 1 Palladium complexes I-IV.

Table 1Optimization of reaction conditions. ^a

Entry	Catalyst	Base	Solvent	T (°C)	Yield (%) ^b
1	I	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	61
2	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	89
3	III	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	35
4	IV	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	42
5	II	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	56
6	II	Na ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	37
7	II	KOH	DMF	110	5
8	II	NEt ₃	DMF	110	86
9	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	110	42
10	II	K ₂ CO ₃	Dioxane	110	0
11	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	100	83
12	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	130	76
13 ^c	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	80
14 ^d	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	71
15 ^e	II	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	110	88

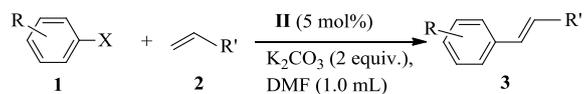
^a Reaction conditions: **1b** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), catalyst (5 mol%), base (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.) in solvent (1.0 mL) at indicated temperature for 24 h.

^b Isolated yield.

^c **II** (3 mol%) was used.

^d **II** (1 mol%) was used.

^e **II** (10 mol%) was used.

Table 2Substrate scope for Mizoroki-Heck reactions.^a

Entry	1 (R)	X	2 (R')	3	Yield (%) ^b
1	1a (4-CHO)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3aa	98
2	1b (4-COCH ₃)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3ba	89
3	1c (H)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3ca	81
4	1d (4-OCH ₃)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3da	79
5	1a (4-CHO)	Br	2b (COOEt)	3ab	74
6	1b (4-COCH ₃)	Br	2b (COOEt)	3bb	72
7	1c (H)	Br	2b (COOEt)	3cb	71
8	1d (4-OCH ₃)	Br	2b (COOEt)	3db	71
9	1a (4-CHO)	Br	2c (COOBu ^t)	3ac	87
10	1b (4-COCH ₃)	Br	2c (COOBu ^t)	3bc	80
11	1c (H)	Br	2c (COOBu ^t)	3cc	79
12	1d (4-OCH ₃)	Br	2c (COOBu ^t)	3dc	71
13	1a (4-CHO)	Br	2d (Ph)	3ad	73
14	1b (4-COCH ₃)	Br	2d (Ph)	3bd	72
15	1c (H)	Br	2d (Ph)	3cd	70
16	1d (4-OCH ₃)	Br	2d (Ph)	3dd	69
17	1e (2-bromothiophene)		2a (COOMe)	3ea	80
18	1f (4-COCH ₃)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3fa	66
19	1f (4-COCH ₃)	Cl	2b (COOEt)	3fb	67
20	1f (4-COCH ₃)	Cl	2c (COOBu ^t)	3fc	77
21	1f (4-COCH ₃)	Cl	2d (Ph)	3fd	63

22	1g (4-CHO)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3ga	74
23	1h (H)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3ha	59
24	1i (4-OCH ₃)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3ia	62

^a Reaction conditions: Aryl halide **1** (0.2 mmol), olefins **2** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), **II** (5 mol%), K₂CO₃ (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.) in DMF (1.0 mL) at 110 °C for 24 h.

^b Isolated yield.

Table 3Control experiments for the role of monophosphine ligands.^a

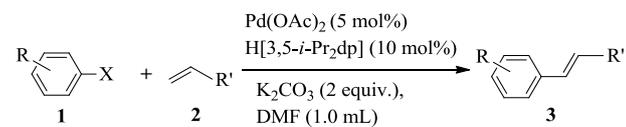
Entry	Pd salt	Ligands {H[3,5-R ₂ dp]}	Yield of 3ba (%) ^b
1	PdCl ₂	R = H	27
2	PdCl ₂	R = <i>i</i> -Pr	80
3	PdCl ₂	R = Ph	48
4	PdCl ₂	R = <i>t</i> -Bu	52
5	PdCl ₂	/	50
6	Pd(OAc) ₂	R = H	40
7	Pd(OAc) ₂	R = <i>i</i> -Pr	86
8	Pd(OAc) ₂	R = Ph	70
9	Pd(OAc) ₂	R = <i>t</i> -Bu	64
10	Pd(OAc) ₂	/	39

^aReaction conditions: **1b** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), Pd salt (5 mol%), ligand (10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv.) in DMF (1.0 mL) at 110°C for 24 h.

^bIsolated yield.

Table 4

The Mizoroki-Heck reaction of several aryl halides and olefins catalyzed by Pd(OAc)₂ and H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp].^a



Entry	1 (R)	X	2 (R')	3	Yield (%) ^b
1	1a (4-CHO)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3aa	79
2	1b (4-COCH ₃)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3ba	86
3	1c (H)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3ca	59
4	1d (4-OCH ₃)	Br	2a (COOMe)	3da	81
5	1d (4-OCH ₃)	Br	2b (COOEt)	3db	67
6	1c (H)	Br	2c (COOBu ^t)	3cc	70
7	1a (4-CHO)	Br	2d (Ph)	3ad	63
8	1f (4-COCH ₃)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3fa	86
9	1g (4-CHO)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3ga	68
10	1h (H)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3ha	54
11	1i (4-OCH ₃)	Cl	2a (COOMe)	3ia	73

^a Reaction conditions: aryl halide **1** (0.2 mmol), olefin **2** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Pd(OAc)₂(5 mol %), H[3,5-*i*-Pr₂dp](10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) in DMF (1.0 mL) at 110°C for 24h.

^b Isolated yield.