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Easily prepared mono(*N,N*-dialkylamino)phosphine palladium(II) complexes: Structural and catalytic evaluation

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Abstract: The search for efficient, active and universal catalyst systems for transition-metal catalyzed cross-coupling reactions, continues to be of interest to researchers world-wide. Herein, we report two new Pd(II) complexes, effortlessly prepared from *N,N*-dialkylamino-phosphines for Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reactions. These sufficiently hindered (% $V_{\text{Bur}} = 30.0 - 31.5\%$) and electron rich ($\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1947.41 - 1946.29 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) aminophosphines formed active catalysts for Suzuki-Miyaura coupling of aryl bromides and chlorides.

Palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions are indispensable tools in synthesis, providing easy access to C-C and C-X (X = N, O, S, F, Si, and B) bonds.^[1,2] Among them is the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction, widely used in pharmaceuticals^[3], agrochemicals^[4], natural products^[5], materials science^[6] and process chemistry^[7]. As the application of this versatile reaction broadens, the need for robust, highly active catalyst systems increases. Pioneering contributions in this regard have been trialkyl-, biaryl-, ferrocenyl- and adamantyl-based phosphines developed by Fu^[8], Buchwald^[9], Hartwig^[10] and Beller^[11], respectively. Notable contributions have subsequently been made by Kwong^[12], Verkade^[13], Reetz^[14], Stradiotto^[15], Hong^[16], and many more.

Our focus is on aminophosphines,^[17,18] pioneered as ligands in Suzuki-Miyaura coupling by Woolins^[19] and now applicable in other catalyst systems such as intermolecular hydroamination of alkenes^[20], alkylation of amines by alcohols^[21], and amination of aryl-substituted allylic alcohols^[22]. This class of ligands allows for easy tuning of donor and steric capacities by varying substituents on the *N*-(abundance of amines, including easily accessible imidazol-2-ylidene- and pyridinylidene amines), the *P*-center or both.^[23-29] Arylamino groups attenuate the basicity of the *P*-donor atom through resonance and σ -electron withdrawal, while aliphatic amino groups increase the basicity due to the absence of the π -system.^[30] This was independently demonstrated by Ziolkowski^[31] and Woollins^[32], studying the electronic properties of *N*-pyrrolyl- and *N*-pyrrolidinyl-phosphines employing ν_{CO} of *trans*-[RhCl(CO)L₂], respectively. Their studies also revealed the alkyl-based [P(NC₄H₈)₃] (1951 cm⁻¹) as a better donor compared to its aromatic counterpart [P(NC₆H₅)₃] (2012 cm⁻¹) (Table 1, entries 9 and 2). Most notable was the finding that *P*-basicity increases with decrease of amino-substituents, Ph₂P(NR₂) > PhP(NR₂)₂ > P(NR₂)₃. This trend was further confirmed by Burrows and co-workers^[33], in their parameterization studies of *N*-

carbazolyl phosphines which showed a decrease in donor character with increase in number of *N*-carbazolyl substituents in the order [PPh₂(NC₁₂H₈)] < [PPh(NC₁₂H₈)₂] < [P(NC₁₂H₈)₃] (Table 1). Furthermore, Singh and co-workers identified [PPh(NEt₂)₂] as a poor donor than [PPh₂(NEt₂)], with electron descriptors of $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 2007 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and 1974 cm^{-1} , and $^1J_{\text{PSe}} = 761 \text{ Hz}$ and 746 Hz , respectively.^[29]

Table 1. Electronic descriptors derived from ν_{CO} of *trans*-[RhCl(CO)L₂] complexes.

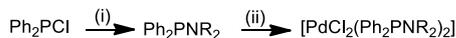
Entry	Ligand	ν_{CO} (cm ⁻¹)	Ref
1	P(OPh) ₃ ^a	2016	[34]
2	P(Pyrrolyl) ₃ ^a	2012	[31]
3	P(Carbazolyl) ₃ ^b	2012	[33]
4	PhP(Pyrrolyl) ₂ ^a	2009	[31]
5	Ph ₂ P(Pyrrolyl) ^a	2000	[31]
6	PPh(Carbazolyl) ₂ ^b	1997	[33]
7	PPh ₂ (Carbazolyl) ^b	1990	[33]
8	PPh ₃ ^a	1965	[34]
9	P(Pyrrolidinyl) ₃ ^a	1951	[32]
10	PhP(Pyrrolidinyl) ₂ ^a	1949	[32]
11	Ph ₂ P(di- <i>n</i> -butylamino) ^c	1947	this work
12	Ph ₂ P(di- <i>iso</i> -butylamino) ^c	1946	this work

^aKBr. ^bCH₂Cl₂. ^cWB97XD/LANL2DZ.

Following these precedents, we report the use of novel Pd(II) complexes comprising strongly basic mono-(*N,N*-dialkylamino)diphenylphosphines of general formula PPh₂(NR₂) (Scheme 1), for Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling. Previously demonstrated to be good donors, the catalytic efficiency of this family of aminophosphine ligands was evaluated parallel to triphenylphosphine (PPh₃) and 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',6'-dimethoxybiphenyl (SPhos) as the benchmark and gold standard, respectively.

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Diphenylphosphino-*N,N*-di-*n*-butylamine (**L1**) and diphenylphosphino-*N,N*-di-isobutylamine (**L2**) were prepared by condensation of chlorodiphenylphosphine with the corresponding secondary amine in anhydrous diethyl ether or THF at room temperature (Scheme 1 (i)).^[30]

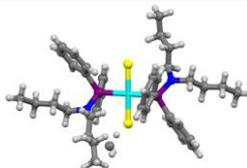
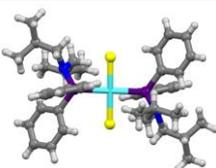


R = *n*-butyl **L1** (88%), **C1** (92%)
= *iso*-butyl **L2** (90%), **C2** (89%)

Scheme 1. Synthesis of mono-*(N,N*-dialkylamino)phosphine ligands through condensation and complexation to Pd(II); (i) 1 equiv. NR₂, 1 equiv. Et₃N, and 0.5 equiv. PPh₂Cl, rt, 3 h, N₂, THF (**L1**, 88%) or Et₂O (**L2**, 90%); (ii) 1 equiv. (CH₃CN)PdCl₂, 2 equiv. L, rt, 24 h, N₂, DCM, affording **C1** (92%) and **C2** (89%).

The desired aminophosphine products were isolated in yields of 88% (**L1**, viscous oil) and 90% (**L2**, white powdery solid, after recrystallization from absolute ethanol) in 3 h. The novel Pd(II) complexes **C1** and **C2** were prepared through the reaction of the free ligands with bis(acetonitrile)dichloropalladium(II) in CH₂Cl₂ for 24 h at 25 °C (Scheme 1 (ii) and Table 2). ³¹P NMR showed shifts 61.9 to 70.1 ppm (**L1** → **C1**) and 64.3 – 68.7 ppm (**L2** → **C2**).

Table 2: Selected crystallographic and refinement parameters of **C1** and **C2**.^a

Crystal structure		
CCDC #	2064686	2064689
Complex	C1	C2
Empirical formula	C ₄₀ H ₅₆ Cl ₂ N ₂ P ₂ Pd	C ₄₀ H ₅₆ Cl ₂ N ₂ P ₂ Pd
Formula weight	804.10	804.10
Temperature/K	100	100
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group, Z	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i> , 4	<i>P</i> -1, 1
<i>a</i> /Å	14.952(8)	8.9283(10)
<i>b</i> /Å	9.929(5)	8.9344(9)
<i>c</i> /Å	26.495(14)	13.2260(14)
α /°	90	109.168(2)
β /°	103.283(14)	103.863(3)
γ /°	90	90.467(3)
Volume/Å ³	3828(3)	963.16(18)
Final R indexes [<i>I</i> ≥ 2σ (<i>I</i>)]	R ₁ = 0.0542, wR ₂ = 0.1361	R ₁ = 0.0365, wR ₂ = 0.1002

^aComplete crystal data can be retrieved from Table S1 and S2. Selected bond lengths and angles are included in Table 3.

To get an indication of the robustness of the free ligands, simple stability tests were conducted, where the rate of their oxidation was monitored in isolated forms and solution (SI). ³¹P NMR experiments revealed that in their isolated forms, **L1** and **L2** are stable to atmospheric air and moisture for the duration of the study (6 days). Exposed to air and moisture whilst in solution, they are only stable for 12 h, with increased oxidation over 24 h

(particularly **L2**), and full oxidation in 48 h. Additional stability tests included base and elevated temperature exposure, to which they were relatively stable (SI). Trace amounts of other phosphine oxides were noticeable on the NMR spectra suggesting some decomposition or possibly the oxide of 1,1,2,2-tetraphenyldiphosphine, the insidious homo-coupling product of diphenylchlorophosphine^[35–37] which would have escaped recrystallization after the ligand synthesis. This we are currently investigating further.

Table 3: Selected bond lengths and angles of complexes **C1** and **C2**.^a

Complex	Bond	Length	Bond	Angle
C1	Pd-Cl1	2.2774(15)	P1-Pd-Cl1	91.07(6)
	Pd-P1	2.2989(16)	P2-Pd-Cl1	88.23(6)
	Pd-P2	2.2907(15)	Cl2-Pd-P1	89.41(6)
	Pd-Cl2	2.2737(15)	Cl2-Pd-P2	91.25(6)
	P1-N1	1.640(4)	N1-P1-Pd	117.73(15)
C2	Pd-Cl1	2.3084(7)	Cl1 ¹ -Pd-P1 ¹	93.92(2)
	Pd-Cl1 ¹	2.3084(7)	Cl1 ¹ -Pd-P1	86.08(2)
	Pd-P1	2.3533(6)	Cl1-Pd-P1 ¹	86.08(2)
	Pd-P1 ¹	2.3533(6)	Cl1-Pd-P1	93.92(2)
	P1-N1	1.690(2)	N1-P1-Pd	113.83(8)

^aThe complete list of bond lengths and angles can be retrieved in the SI. Both complexes share similar bond lengths and angles around the Pd center, i.e., Pd-Cl (2.2774 and 2.3089 Å); Pd-P (2.2989 and 2.3533 Å); and Pd-P-N (113.09 and 113.83°), for **C1** and **C2**, respectively. These are comparable to those previously reported by Jin^[38] (Pd-Cl = 2.2772 Å) and Jambor^[39] (Pd-P = 2.3124 Å and P-N = 1.6901 Å).

Though not ideal substrates to model Suzuki-Miyaura coupling, we could easily access 4-chlorobenzonitrile and phenylboronic acid and used them to screen suitable reaction conditions using **C2** (Table 4). Optimal conditions were found to be 3 mol % **C2** and 3 equiv. of K₃PO₄ in toluene at 100 °C for 5 h, affording the biaryl product in 82% yield (entry 10, Table 4). Yields with K₂CO₃^[40] (entries 1 – 4) and Cs₂CO₃^[41] (entry 5) were poor (Table 4). Similarly, the use of conventional solvents THF, DMF, and CH₂Cl₂ gave poor yields (Table S3). With optimum conditions determined^[42–44], the catalytic efficacies of **C1** and **C2** were compared using electronically

Table 4: Optimization of Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling using **C2**.^a

Entry	Solvent	Base	Catalyst mol %	Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	GC yield (%)
1	THF	K ₂ CO ₃	1	reflux	24	9
2	DCM	K ₂ CO ₃	1	reflux	24	11
3	DMF	K ₂ CO ₃	1	140	24	34
4	Toluene	K ₂ CO ₃	1	100	24	43
5	Toluene	Cs ₂ CO ₃	1	100	24	54
6	Toluene	K ₃ PO ₄	1	100	24	59
7	Toluene	K ₃ PO ₄	2	100	24	70
8	Toluene	K ₃ PO ₄	3	100	24	83
9	Toluene	K ₃ PO ₄	3	100	12	81
10	Toluene	K₃PO₄	3	100	5	82
11	Toluene	K ₃ PO ₄	3	100	1	51

^aReaction conditions: ArCl, 1.2 equiv. PhB(OH)₂, 3 equiv. base, 1 – 3 mol % **C2**, solvent, 1 – 24 h, N₂. GC yield (%) as an average of two experiments. Full optimization table given in the SI.

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diverse aryl bromides and chlorides (entries 1 – 6, **Table 5**). Catalytic efficacies of **C1** and **C2** were comparable in the parallel screening of aryl bromides (entries 1 – 3, **Table 5**), with average product yields of 76 and 78%, respectively. Differences were observed in couplings of aryl chlorides (entries 4 – 6), with **C2** marginally superior to **C1**, giving average yields of 74 and 68%, respectively. The efficiency of **C2** prompted its benchmarking against SPhos and PPh₃ (entry 7 – 14, **Table 5**). Prior to this, a comparison between *in-situ* and pre-formed complexes of **L2**, permitted the subsequent examination of **L2** as a free ligand (entries 6 – 7, **Table 5**). **L2** and SPhos formed effective catalysts for cross-coupling of activated aryl chlorides (7 – 11), with average yields of 83 and 89%, respectively.

Table 5: Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and chlorides using **C1**, **C2**, PPh₃ and SPhos.^a

$\text{Ar}^1\text{X} + \text{Ar}^2\text{B}(\text{OH})_2 \xrightarrow[100\text{ }^\circ\text{C, 5 h, N}_2]{\substack{3\text{ mol \% catalyst} \\ 3\text{ equiv. K}_3\text{PO}_4, \text{ toluene}}} \text{Ar}^1\text{—Ar}^2$				
Entry	Ar ¹ X	Ar ² B(OH) ₂	Catalyst	%: GC/ (isolated)
1	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ Br	PhB(OH) ₂	C1	71 (68)
			C2	73 (69)
2	4-CNC ₆ H ₄ Br	PhB(OH) ₂	C1	81 (79)
			C2	84 (81)
3	C ₆ H ₅ Br	4-	C1	75 (70)
		MeC ₆ H ₄ B(OH) ₂	C2	78 (73)
4	C ₆ H ₅ Cl	4-	C1	56 (51)
		MeC ₆ H ₄ B(OH) ₂	C2	64 (60)
5	4-MeC ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	C1	53 (50)
			C2	61 (58)
6	4-CNC ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	C1	69 (65)
			C2	82 (79)
7	4-CNC ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	L2/Pd	84 (80)
			PPh ₃ /Pd	50
			SPhos/Pd	90
			L2/Pd	86 (82)
8	4-CNC ₆ H ₄ Cl	4-	PPh ₃ /Pd	56
		MeC ₆ H ₄ B(OH) ₂	SPhos/Pd	91
		L2/Pd	77 (71)	
		L2/Pd	79 (73)	
9	4-CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	PPh ₃ /Pd	42
			SPhos/Pd	89
			L2/Pd	79 (73)
			L2/Pd	88 (82)
10	4-CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄ Cl	2,5-	PPh ₃ /Pd	44
		Me ₂ C ₆ H ₃ B(OH) ₂	SPhos/Pd	81
		L2/Pd	88 (82)	
		L2/Pd	88 (82)	
11	4-NO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	PPh ₃ /Pd	71
			SPhos/Pd	95
			L2/Pd	80 (71)
			L2/Pd	80 (71)
12 ^b	4-MeC ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	PPh ₃ /Pd	0
			SPhos/Pd	90
			L2/Pd	59 (51)
			L2/Pd	59 (51)
13 ^b	1,2-Me ₂ C ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	PPh ₃ /Pd	0
			SPhos/Pd	79
			L2/Pd	69 (60)
			L2/Pd	69 (60)
14 ^b	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ Cl	PhB(OH) ₂	PPh ₃ /Pd	0
			SPhos/Pd	88
			L2/Pd	69 (60)
			L2/Pd	69 (60)

^aReaction conditions: ArX, 1.2 equiv. ArB(OH)₂, 3 equiv. K₃PO₄, 3 mol % catalyst, Toluene, 5 h, N₂. GC yield (%) as average of two experiments, (isolated yields). ^bReaction ran for 24 h.

For deactivated chlorides (entries 12-14), SPhos gave consistently high yields whilst yields with **L2** were moderate. PPh₃ gave no product at all, which is consistent with reports by Beller^[11] and Fu^[8]. The superiority of SPhos, able to provide a catalyst system that effects Suzuki-Miyaura coupling of even sterically demanding aryl chlorides and boronic acids at room temperature using 0.05-0.1% Pd, has been ascribed to the hemilabile methoxy group(s) on a phenyl ring bearing these.^[45] Besides the Buchwald ligands,^[9,43,46] other highly efficient catalyst systems for coupling of deactivated aryl chlorides include those reported by Beller^[11], Fu^[8] and Hartwig^[10]. The group of Frech showed that palladium nanoparticles are the catalytically active form when using dichloro-*bis*(aminophosphine) complexes.^[27] In our case, adding excess elemental mercury at the beginning of the reaction (4-chlorotoluene and phenylboronic acid) did not retard the reaction at all; the same result as in **Table 5**, entry 5, was obtained, indicative of the homogeneity of the reaction.

A study to quantify the ligand electronic and steric descriptors was also performed (**Table 6**). The carbonyl stretching frequencies (ν_{CO}) were accessed from computational models of *trans*-RhCOCl(L)₂. This study revealed the strong donor character of the described P-N ligands compared to PPh₃, due to the strongly basic amine groups, as previously demonstrated by Ziolkowski^[31] and Woollins^[32]. However, SPhos, comprising two Cy groups, proved to be the best donor (**Table 6**).

Computational calculations of the overall electronic density (ρ) donated by the *P*-ligands to the Rh-center further confirmed the observed ν_{CO} (cm⁻¹) trend (**Table 6**). Thus, the poor catalytic performance of PPh₃ based catalysts is ascribed to the overall poor donor character of PPh₃, in contrast to the more electron rich SPhos and aminophosphines **L1** and **L2**. The inherent role of electron rich ligands towards facile oxidative addition is well known.^[43,47]

Table 6: Parameterization of ligands.

Entry	Ligand	ν_{CO} (cm ⁻¹) ^a	Electron density, ρ (a.u.) ^a	% V_{Bur} ^b
1	PPh ₃	1952.69 ^c	0.0008	29.2
2	L1	1947.41	0.0012	30.0
3	L2	1946.29	0.0015	31.5
4	SPhos	1937.83	0.0030	32.7

^aDetermined from WB97XD/LANL2DZ *trans*-RhCOCl(L)₂ at DFT. ^bDetermined from crystallographic data of PdCl₂L₂ (**Table S1** and **S4**). ^cWith a 0.66% deviation, which is within 0.05 and 3.71% deviation reported by Kohls and Stein^[48], at BP86/def2-TZVP and B3LYP/def2-TZVP, respectively.

Steric effects, also important for efficient catalytic activity, were quantified from the percent buried volume (% V_{Bur}) of PdCl₂L₂ complexes (**Table 6**). Clavier and Nolan^[49] found the % V_{Bur} of SPhos and PPh₃ to be 29.3- and 32.7%, and ours are almost the same (29.2 and 32.7%, **Table 6**). Steric bulk is believed to facilitate reductive elimination^[43,47] which also explains the catalytic outcomes of the more hindered **L1**, **L2**, and SPhos, contrary to PPh₃.

In conclusion, Pd(II) monoaminophosphine complexes assembled from inexpensive and easily prepared air and moisture stable ligands, formed promising catalyst systems for Suzuki-Miyaura coupling of aryl bromides and chlorides. Through ligand parameterization, we found sufficient steric bulk and electronic density, $\nu_{\text{CO}} \leq 1947.41$ cm⁻¹ and % $V_{\text{Bur}} \geq 30.0$ % (**L1** and **L2**), to yield active catalysts for the described substrate scope. Whilst

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SPhos and other literature reported ligands are, on the basis of our small data set far superior, we are currently exploring the utility of the aminophosphine ligands [$\text{PAr}_2(\text{NR}_2$, with R = alkyl or aryl)] in terms of substrate scope and optimal catalyst loading and reaction conditions in Suzuki-Miyaura and other cross coupling reactions. The results will be disclosed in due course.

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Keywords: aminophosphines • biaryl • cross-coupling • ligand parameters • Suzuki-Miyaura

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New mono-(*N,N*-dialkylamino)phosphine based palladium (II) complexes were successfully prepared and their crystal structures determined. The complexes showed moderate to high catalytic performance in Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl-bromides and chlorides which could be ascribed to their structural features.

