

Article

# Pd-Catalyzed Intramolecular C–N Bond Cleavage, 1,4-Migration, $sp^3$ C–H Activation, and Heck Reaction: Four Controllable Di-verse Pathways Depending on the Judicious Choice of the Base and Ligand

Teck-Peng Loh

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **Just Accepted Manuscript** • Publication Date (Web): 29 Dec 2014

Downloaded from <http://pubs.acs.org> on January 2, 2015

## Just Accepted

“Just Accepted” manuscripts have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication. They are posted online prior to technical editing, formatting for publication and author proofing. The American Chemical Society provides “Just Accepted” as a free service to the research community to expedite the dissemination of scientific material as soon as possible after acceptance. “Just Accepted” manuscripts appear in full in PDF format accompanied by an HTML abstract. “Just Accepted” manuscripts have been fully peer reviewed, but should not be considered the official version of record. They are accessible to all readers and citable by the Digital Object Identifier (DOI®). “Just Accepted” is an optional service offered to authors. Therefore, the “Just Accepted” Web site may not include all articles that will be published in the journal. After a manuscript is technically edited and formatted, it will be removed from the “Just Accepted” Web site and published as an ASAP article. Note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the manuscript text and/or graphics which could affect content, and all legal disclaimers and ethical guidelines that apply to the journal pertain. ACS cannot be held responsible for errors or consequences arising from the use of information contained in these “Just Accepted” manuscripts.



**ACS Publications**  
High quality. High impact.

This document is confidential and is proprietary to the American Chemical Society and its authors. Do not copy or disclose without written permission. If you have received this item in error, notify the sender and delete all copies.

**Pd-Catalyzed Intramolecular C–N Bond Cleavage, 1,4-Migration, sp<sup>3</sup> C–H Activation, and Heck Reaction: Four Controllable Di-verse Pathways Depending on the Judicious Choice of the Base and Ligand**

Journal:	<i>Journal of the American Chemical Society</i>
Manuscript ID:	ja-2014-12212x
Manuscript Type:	Article
Date Submitted by the Author:	28-Nov-2014
Complete List of Authors:	Wang, Min; University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale and Department of Chemistry Zhang, Xiang; University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale and Department of Chemistry Zhuang, Yu-Xuan; University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale and Department of Chemistry Xu, Yun-He; University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale Loh, Teck-Peng; Nanyang Technological University, Division of Chemistry & Biological Chemistry, School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences

SCHOLARONE™  
Manuscripts

# Pd-Catalyzed Intramolecular C–N Bond Cleavage, 1,4-Migration, $sp^3$ C–H Activation, and Heck Reaction: Four Controllable Diverse Pathways Depending on the Judicious Choice of the Base and Ligand

Min Wang,<sup>a</sup> Xiang Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Yu-Xuan Zhuang,<sup>a</sup> Yun-He Xu<sup>a,\*</sup> and Teck-Peng Loh<sup>a,b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale and Department of Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, 230026, China

<sup>b</sup>Division of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371

**ABSTRACT:** Diverse and controllable pathways induced by palladium-catalyzed intramolecular Heck reaction of *N*-vinylacetamides for the synthesis of nitrogen-containing products in reasonable to high yields via tuning the phosphine ligands and bases are reported. Domino reactions including unique  $\beta$ -N–Pd elimination, 1,4-Pd migration or direct acyl C–H bond functionalization were found to be involved forming different products respectively. Given the ability of using the same starting material to generate diverse products *via* completely different chemoselective processes, these current methodologies offer straightforward access to valuable nitrogen-containing products under mild reaction conditions as well as inspire the discovery of novel reactions.

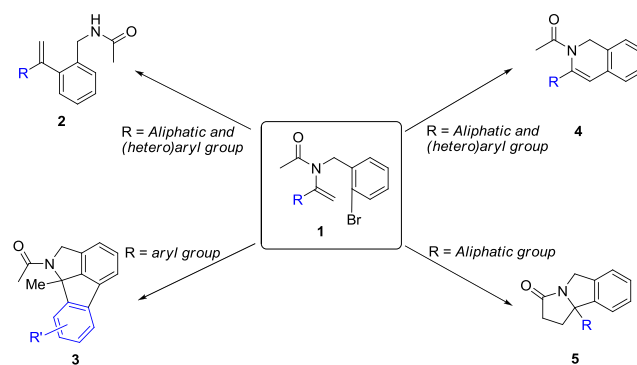
## ■ INTRODUCTION

Due to their diverse and efficient catalytic performance, palladium catalysts have been used widely in various coupling reactions to forge new C–C or C–heteroatom bonds for rapid access to complex and useful molecules.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, there has been a great interest in the use of transient palladium complexes generated in a Heck reaction for domino reactions to construct complex polycycles.<sup>2</sup> This transient palladium complex may be involved in  $\beta$ -elimination,<sup>3</sup>  $sp^3$  or  $sp^2$  C–H bond functionalization,<sup>4</sup> 1,4-migration,<sup>5</sup> to yield complex structures. In light of our interest in the use of transient palladium intermediates for domino reactions and our previously reported works on direct functionalization of *N*-vinylacetamides,<sup>6</sup> we studied the palladium-catalyzed transformation of vinylacetamide derivative **1**. To our surprise, we found that the reaction can furnish either the 1,1'-disubstituted ethylene derivative **2**, the 2-azabicyclo[3,3,0]octadiene derivative **3**, isoquinoline derivatives **4** or 5/5/6-membered pyrroloisindolone derivative **5** depending on the ligand and base used in the reaction (Scheme 1). Therefore, the realization of a very rare  $\beta$ -N–Pd elimination pathway and the divergent routes leading to different products from the same starting material with high selectivity is the subject of current work.

## ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

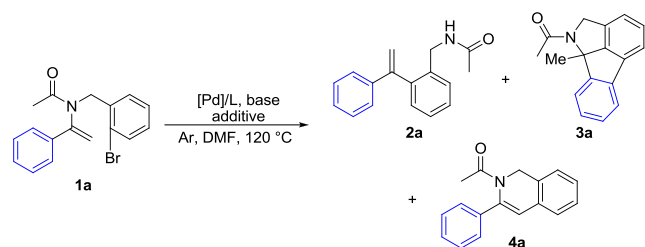
**Optimization of Palladium-Catalyzed Controllable Diverse *N*-Containing Compounds.** Initially, we examined the reaction of *N*-(2-bromobenzyl)-substituted vinylacetamide **1a** under Heck reaction conditions by using Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and triphenylphosphine catalytic system with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. It was found that products **2a** and **3a** were obtained (determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum) along with the formation of 6-*endo* product **4a** (Table 1, entry 3).<sup>7</sup> However, the direct use of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> or the combination of Pd(PhCN)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> with PPh<sub>3</sub> (Table 1, entry 4

and 5 respectively) did not yield any of the desired products. Different bases were tested to adjust the chemoselectivity of this reaction. To our delight, when triethylamine was applied, product **2a** was exclusively obtained (Table 1, entry 7).



**Scheme 1. Palladium-catalyzed Diverse Synthetic Pathways from *N*-(2-bromobenzyl)-*N*-(1-phenylvinyl)acetamide **1**.**

Next, we sought for appropriate reaction conditions to improve the yield of product **3a**. It was found that organic bases do not favor the latter transformation even though different phosphine ligands were tested. In the presence of the inorganic base K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and bulky phosphine ligands, the formation of **3a** was facilitated (Table 1, entries 11–16). When Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was used as base, the yield of **3a** was increased to 55% along with the formation of **2a** and **4a** as the side products (Table 1, entry 18). After much screening, product **3a** could be isolated in 75% yield when *tetra*-butyl-ammonium chloride (TBAC) was introduced as additive (Table 1, entry 20). Other additives such as *tetra*-butyl-ammonium bromide (TBAB) or PivOH did not improve the efficiency of this transformation (Table 1, entries 19 and 21). Finally, it was found that the combination of PPh<sub>3</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> would greatly favor the formation of product **4a** (Table 1, entry 22).

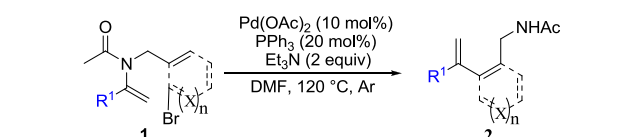
**Table 1. Optimization of Catalytic Conditions.**


Entry	Catalyst (10 mol %)	Ligand (mol %)	Base (equiv)	Additive (equiv)	2a <sup>b</sup> (%)	3a <sup>b</sup> (%)	4a <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	none	PPh <sub>3</sub> (20)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	0	0	0
2	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub> (20)	none	none	0	0	0
3	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub> (20)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	4	40	56
4	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	none	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	0	0	0
5	Pd(PhCN) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub> (20)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	trace	trace	10
6 <sup>[c]</sup>	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub> (20)	Et <sub>3</sub> NH (2.0)	none	20	0	0
7 <sup>[c]</sup>	<b>Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>PPh<sub>3</sub> (20)</b>	<b>Et<sub>3</sub>N (2.0)</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>90 (80)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
8 <sup>[c]</sup>	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub> (20)	DBU (2.0)	none	16	0	0
9 <sup>[c]</sup>	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	PCy <sub>3</sub> (20)	Et <sub>3</sub> N (2.0)	none	11	0	0
10 <sup>[c]</sup>	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	dppb (10)	Et <sub>3</sub> N (2.0)	none	23	0	0
11	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	dppb (10)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	4	38	54
12	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	XantPhos (10)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	3	43	52
13	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (20)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	5	45	50
14	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (30)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	4	47	47
15	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (10)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	3	54	43
16	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (10)	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (1.2)	none	18	48	33
17	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (10)	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	0	0	0
18	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (10)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	none	19	55	9
19	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (10)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	PivOH (0.3)	16	62	18
20	<b>Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>Johnphos (10)</b>	<b>Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.2)</b>	<b>TBAC (1.0)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>76 (75)</b>	<b>trace</b>
21	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Johnphos (10)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.2)	TBAB (1.0)	16	62	18
22	<b>Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>PPh<sub>3</sub> (20)</b>	<b>CS<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.2)</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>trace</b>	<b>71(68)</b>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: To a mixture of 0.2 mmol **1a**, catalyst, ligand, base and additive was added anhydrous DMF (2 mL) and allowed to stir for 24 h at 120 °C under argon atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Yield was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using phenyltrimethylsilane as internal standard; isolated yields are shown in parentheses. <sup>c</sup> Reaction conditions: To a mixture of 0.3 mmol **1a**, catalyst, ligand, base and additive, anhydrous DMF (5 mL) was added.

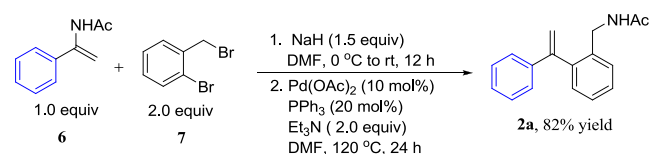
**$\beta$ -N-Pd Elimination for the Synthesis of 1,1'-Disubstituted Ethylene Derivatives.** The difficulty of controlling the regioselectivity of traditional Mizoroki-Heck reactions between common alkenes and organic (pseudo)halides for the synthesis of 1,1'-disubstituted ethylenes has been known to be a challenging task.<sup>8</sup> Only few examples for highly regioselective intermolecular Mizoroki-Heck reactions have been successfully achieved.<sup>9</sup> However, to the best of our knowledge there has been no example reported on the intramolecular Heck coupling pathway to access 1,1'-disubstituted alkenes *via* a vinyl C–N bond cleavage. With the optimal reaction conditions in hand (Table 1, entry 7), the scope of the palladium-catalyzed intramolecular Heck reaction-induced domino reaction for the synthesis of 1,1'-disubstituted ethylenes was investigated. Various 1,1'-disubstituted alkenes products are summarized in Table 2. As shown, the tolerance scope of R<sup>1</sup> group was first examined. The reaction of phenyl-substituted *N*-vinylacetamides with an electron-donating or electron-

withdrawing group at *meta*- or *para*-position could all afford the desired products in good yields (Table 2, entries **2a–2j**). Especially, halogen substituents on the benzene ring do not affect the Heck reaction's selectivity which permits further functionalization of products (Table 2, entries **2f–2h**). However, only a 40% yield was obtained when a methyl group was installed at the *ortho*-position (Table 2, entry **2b**). Heteroaryl such as furyl or thienyl substituted *N*-vinylacetamides both performed well in this reaction, giving the products in 61 and 67% yields, respectively (Table 2, entries **2k** and **2l**). While, the product was obtained in 49% yield when benzofuran-substituted *N*-vinylacetamide was used in the reaction (Table 2, entry **2m**). When the *para*-toluenesulfonyl protected

**Table 2. Synthesis of 1,1'-Disubstituted Ethylene Derivatives from *N*-vinylacetamides Catalyzed by Palladium.<sup>a</sup>**


<b>2a</b> , R = H, 80%	<b>2j</b> , 74%
<b>2b</b> , R = 2'-Me, 40% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2c</b> , R = 3'-Me, 87%	
<b>2d</b> , R = 4'-Me, 77%	
<b>2e</b> , R = 4'-OMe, 76%	
<b>2f</b> , R = 4'-F, 61% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2g</b> , R = 4'-Cl, 66% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2h</b> , R = 4-Br, 61%	
<b>2i</b> , R = 4-NO <sub>2</sub> , 64%	
<b>2k</b> , X=O, 61%	
<b>2l</b> , X=S, 67%	
<b>2m</b> , 49%	
<b>2n</b> , 31% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2o</b> , 48% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2p</b> , 32% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2q</b> , R = 4'-Me 73%	
<b>2r</b> , R = 6'-Cl 48% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2s</b> , R = 4'-Cl, 53% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2v</b> , 50%	
<b>2w</b> , 54% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2x</b> , n=1, 37% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>2y</b> , n=2, 35% <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Unless noted the reaction was conducted with **1** (0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.03 mmol), PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.06 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.6 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) for 24 h at 120 °C under argon atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Reaction time was extended to 48 h.

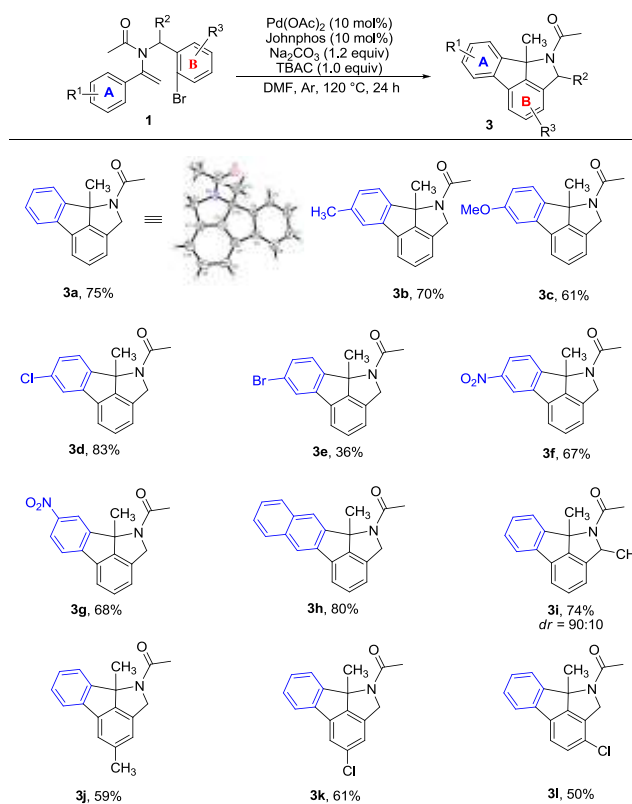


### Scheme 2. One-pot Reaction between *N*-vinylacetamide **6** and 1-Bromo-2-(bromomethyl)benzene **7**.

indole-substituted substrate was employed, the desired product was generated in a 31% yield (Table 2, **2n**). Notably, R<sup>1</sup> group could be extended to aliphatic substituents, the more bulky cyclohexyl- and *tert*-butyl- substituted *N*-vinylacetamides also worked well in this reaction to give the corresponding products in moderate yields (Table 2, entries **2o** and **2p**). Subsequently, we turned our attention to test the scope of bromo-substituted groups. It was observed that the substrate with electron-donating group favors a higher yield of the product than that with Cl-substituent (Table 2, entries **2q-2s**). In addition, substitution on the benzylic position had a dramatic effect on the product yield; only 39% **2t** was obtained (Table 2, entry **2t**). Bromo-substituted naphthyl and heteroaryl groups were also tolerated in this reaction, and the substrates were smoothly transformed to the corresponding products in good yields (Table 2, entries **2u-2w**). To our delight, when cyclic alkenyl bromides were applied as the coupling initiator, the conjugated diene products could also be obtained in acceptable yields (Table 2, entries **2x** and **2y**). It is to be noted that, we have successfully achieved the synthesis of 1,1'-disubstituted ethylene derivatives *via* the intramolecular pathway which exclude the formation of 1,2-disubstituted ethylene products commonly observed in the Heck coupling reaction. Moreover, a one-pot reaction between vinylacetamide **6** and 2-bromobenzyl bromide **7** was also carried out. The desired product **2a** could be isolated in 82% yield (Scheme 2).

**Palladium-Catalyzed 5-*exo*-Heck, 1,4-Palladium Migration and aryl-aryl Coupling Domino Reactions.** On the other hand, the reaction leading to **3a** can be rationalized by invoking a 1,4-palladium shift as previously proposed by Larock,<sup>10</sup> Catellani,<sup>11</sup> Lautens,<sup>12</sup> Gallagher,<sup>13</sup> Cámpora,<sup>14</sup> Buchwald,<sup>15</sup> Dyker,<sup>16</sup> Pan,<sup>17</sup> Jia,<sup>18</sup> Kim<sup>19</sup> *et al.* for the synthesis of 6/5-, 6/6- or 5/6-membered<sup>3i</sup> polycyclic compounds, while examples for the formation of 5/5-membered heterocyclic compounds has been rarely reported. In the presence of TBAC and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, various bisannelated 2-azabicyclo[3,3,0]octadiene derivatives were obtained in moderate to good yields (Table 3). The influence of the electronic property of the phenyl ring **A** was first investigated. Both electron-donating groups (such as methoxyl and methyl groups) and strong electron-withdrawing group (such as nitro group) on the phenyl ring **A** could all drive the reaction to form the desired products in good yields (Table 3, **3b**, **3c** and **3f** respectively). It was found that a Cl-substituent was well tolerated in this reaction to afford the product in an excellent yield (Table 3, **3d**). In addition, the naphthyl-group substituted *N*-vinylacetamide also gave the product in a high yield (Table 3, **3h**). However, the yield of **3e** decreased sharply when bromine was installed on the benzene ring due to side reactions. Surprisingly, the steric hindrance of a methyl group at the benzylic position could be completely ignored; **3i** could be obtained in 74% yield (*dr* = 90:10, determined from the crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the crude product). With regards to ring **B**, methyl- or Cl-substituted *N*-vinylacetamides both provided the products in good yields (Table 3, **3j**, **3k** and **3l**).

**Table 3. Palladium-Catalyzed Domino Coupling Reactions for the Synthesis of 2-Azabicyclo[3,3,0]octadiene Derivatives.** <sup>a,b</sup>

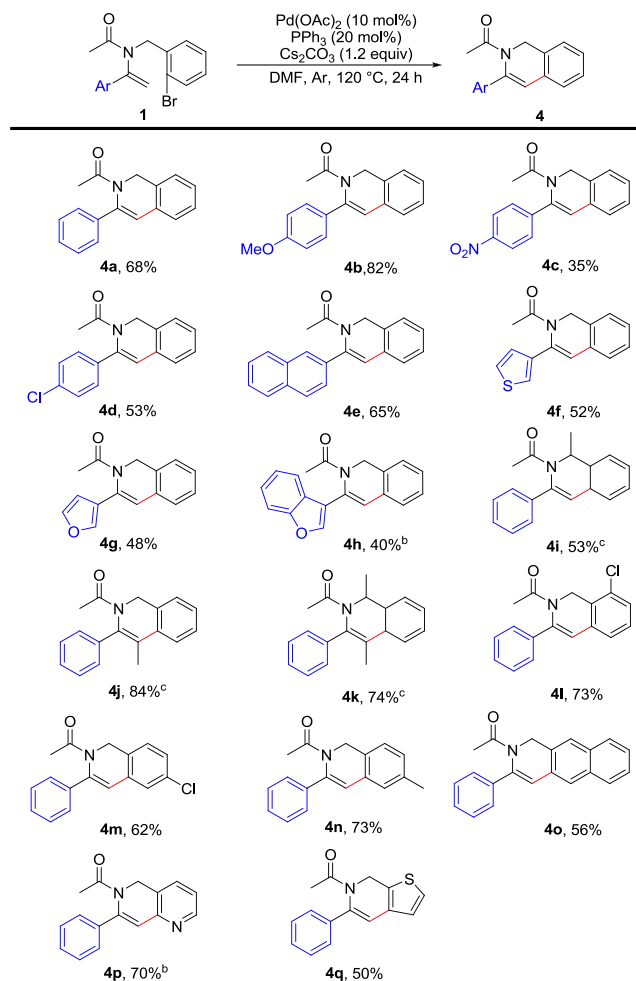


<sup>a</sup> Unless noted otherwise, the reaction was conducted with **1** (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.02 mmol), JohnPhos (0.02 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.24 mmol), TBAC (0.2 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) for 24 h at 120 °C under argon atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

**Palladium-Catalyzed 6-*endo*-Heck Coupling Reaction for the Synthesis of Isoquinoline Derivatives.** Highly selective 6-*endo* Heck cyclization reaction for the synthesis of dihydroisoquinoline derivatives is always challenging due to competitive 5-*exo* pathway. In our reaction system, we found that when the base used in the coupling reaction was changed into Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, then various 3-(hetero)aryl-substituted 1,2-dihydroisoquinoline derivatives could be smoothly generated *via* a 6-*endo* Heck cyclization process (Table 4). It is important to note that different functional groups such as nitro-, halides *etc* could be tolerated at the (hetero)aryl rings which will permit the products to be further functionalized in sequence steps (Table 4, **4c**, **4d**, **4f**, **4g** and **4h**). Moreover, the *N*-acetyl-7-phenyl-5,6-dihydro-1,6-naphthyridine **4p** and *N*-acetyl-5-phenyl-6,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-*c*]pyridine **4q** also could be prepared in reasonable yields under the optimized reaction conditions.

**Table 4. Palladium-Catalyzed Domino Coupling Reactions for the Synthesis of Isoquinoline Compounds.** <sup>a</sup>

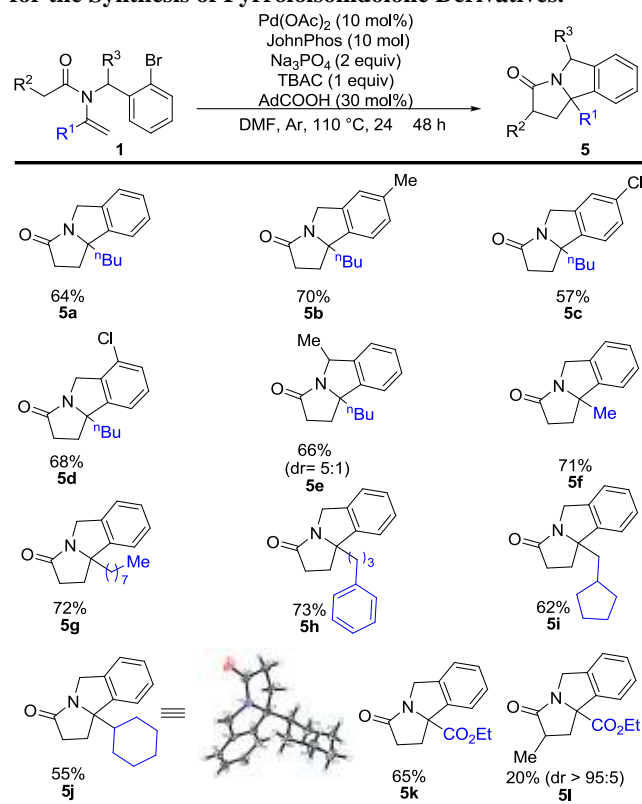




<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: The mixture of 0.3 mmol **1a**, 10 mol% Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 20 mol% PPh<sub>3</sub> and 1.2 equiv Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in the dry DMF (3 mL) under argon atmosphere was heated at 120 °C for 24 h. <sup>b</sup> Reaction conditions: The mixture 0.3 mmol **1a**, 10 mol% Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 10 mol% Johnphos, 1.2 equiv Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and 1 equiv TBAC in the dry DMF (3 mL) under argon atmosphere was heated at 120 °C for 24 h. <sup>c</sup> The ligand used in reaction was PCy<sub>3</sub>.

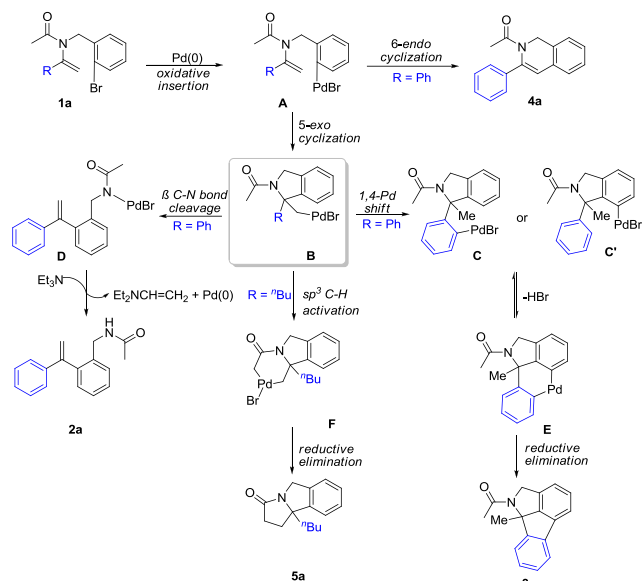
**Neopentylpalladium Species Catalyzed Amide's  $\alpha$  C–H Bond Direct Functionalization for the Synthesis of pyrroloisindolone Derivatives.** Finally, inspired by the good reactivity of neopentyl-type  $\sigma$ -alkylpalladium(II) species in reaction (as proposed in Scheme 1) and limited previously reported examples on C(sp<sup>3</sup>)–C(sp<sup>3</sup>) formation through  $\sigma$ -alkylpalladium induced C(sp<sup>3</sup>)–H activation,<sup>4g</sup> we embarked on the development on the synthesis of pyrroloisindolone derivatives *via*  $\alpha$  direct C–H functionalization of amide. With careful optimization of the reaction conditions (see the details in supporting information section), we found that the combination of Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, TBAC (tributylammonium chloride), adamantane acid (AdCOOH) with the JohnPhos ligand would facilitate the desired product's formation in good yields (Table 5). Regardless of its bulky or electron-deficient character, various aliphatic substituents could be tolerated at the 9-position of the final products. However, a significant decrease of product yield with good stereoselectivity was observed when the acetamide group was replaced by propionamide group (Table 2, **5l**).

**Table 5. Palladium-Catalyzed Domino Coupling Reactions for the Synthesis of Pyrroloisindolone Derivatives.** <sup>a,b</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Unless noted otherwise, the reaction was conducted with **1** (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.02 mmol), JohnPhos (0.02 mmol), Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.4 mmol), TBAC (0.2 mmol) and AdCOOH (0.06 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) for 24 h at 110 °C under argon atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

**Proposed Mechanistic Pathways for the Synthesis of Diverse N-Containing Products.** Similar to the synthesis of products **2**, **3** and **5** where a 5-*exo*-trig Heck reaction gave the transient palladium complex **B** (Scheme 3), which undergoes a  $\beta$ -N–Pd elimination to afford 1,1'-disubstituted ethylene derivatives **2a**.<sup>21</sup> Pd(0) was regenerated with the aid of triethylamine which serves as a reductant.<sup>20</sup> Though  $\beta$ -hydride,<sup>22</sup> oxygen,<sup>23</sup> halide<sup>24</sup> or carbon<sup>25</sup> elimination are common in palladium chemistry, the  $\beta$ -N–Pd elimination has rarely been reported.<sup>26</sup> On the other hand, the reaction leading to **3a** can be rationalized using the 1,4-palladium shift and C(aryl, *sp*<sup>2</sup>)–C(aryl, *sp*<sup>2</sup>) coupling. The formation of 5/5/6-membered pyrroloisindolone derivative **5a** could be achieved by cross-coupling between acyl *sp*<sup>3</sup> carbon with neopentyl-type  $\sigma$ -alkylpalladium(II) species generated *via* 5-*exo*-trig Heck reaction. The formation of 3-aryl-substituted dihydroisoquinoline **4a** was caused by the highly selective 6-*endo* Heck cyclization reaction.



**Scheme 3. Proposed Mechanistic Pathways for the Synthesis of Diverse and Controllable Products Using *N*-vinylacetamides.**

**The possible effect of the used bases and ligands in control of the diverse selectivities.** As proposed in Scheme 3, the synthesis of the four different products could be achieved *via* a 5-*exo-trig* or a 6-*endo-trig* pathway respectively. Firstly the use of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base in the presence of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and PPh<sub>3</sub>, a rare 6-*endo* Heck cyclization product could be observed.<sup>27</sup> While changing the base to triethylamine (Et<sub>3</sub>N), a 5-*exo* cyclization product was obtained. Although the real reason for the diverse pathways (6-*endo* vs 5-*exo*) is not clear, the difference in regioselectivity caused by these two bases was possibly attributed to their difference in coordination abilities. The difference in the coordination sphere as well as the steric effect of the palladium complex may be the reasons for this result. Further investigation into this is still in progress. As for the 5-*exo* selective process which results in the formation of neopentyl  $\sigma$ -alkylpalladium species **B**, the ring strain of this intermediate promotes  $\beta$ -C-N bond cleavage which after protonation by Et<sub>3</sub>N results in the formation of the desired product **2**.

Previous studies by Lautens,<sup>28</sup> Larock,<sup>10e</sup> Hartwig,<sup>29</sup> Zhu<sup>30</sup> *et al.* have demonstrated that the electron-rich and bulky phosphine ligands could stabilize the neopentyl-type  $\sigma$ -alkylpalladium intermediate (resulted from the 5-*exo* pathway) and suppress the direct elimination reaction. For substrates containing two aryl groups, the 1,4-palladium migration from  $\sigma$ -alkylpalladium to aryl group takes place to form an arylpalladium species **C** or **C'** which could further react with another aryl group to give the product **3** in the presence of strong organic ionic bases generated *in situ*.<sup>31</sup> On the other hand, replacing the aryl substituent with an alkyl group to prevent the 1,4-palladium migration reaction and the use of stronger ionic base resulted in the *sp*<sup>3</sup> C-H bond direct functionalization which then undergoes the *sp*<sup>3</sup>-*sp*<sup>3</sup> coupling reaction (Scheme 3, **F**→**5a**).

## ■ CONCLUSION

We have successfully developed a new and efficient strategy using a simple starting material for selective syntheses of four types of products by tuning the ligands and bases used in the reactions. **i)** Under basic condition, an unprecedented  $\beta$ -*N*-Pd elimination occurred after an intramolecular Heck 5-*exo-trig* cyclization reaction leading to the formation of 1,1'-disubstituted ethylene derivatives; **ii)** 1,4-Palladium shift and intramolecular oxidative diaryl cross-coupling reactions following intramolecular Heck cyclization can furnish unusual bisbenzo-annulated 2-azabicyclo[3,3,0]octa-4,7-diene products. **iii)** Another pathway *via* highly selective direct 6-*endo* Heck cyclization reaction can give isoquinoline products. **iv)** Finally, *via* an intramolecular Heck 5-*exo-trig* cyclization reaction followed by C(*sp*<sup>3</sup>)-C(*sp*<sup>3</sup>) coupling reaction can provide 5/5/6-membered pyrroloisindolone compounds. Moreover, these methods provide simple and diverse ways for the synthesis of nitrogen-containing molecules. Given the knowledge of these results, the discovery of interesting and novel reactions and their applications are in progress in our laboratory.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

Experimental procedures and spectral data for all new compounds (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, IR, HRMS), and crystallographic data (CIF) of compounds **2j** and **3a** in CCDC numbers: 988450 and 988325. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

## AUTHOR INFORMATION

### Corresponding Author

\*E-Mail for T.P. L.: [teckpeng@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:teckpeng@ntu.edu.sg);

\*E-Mail for Y.H. X.: [xyh0709@ustc.edu.cn](mailto:xyh0709@ustc.edu.cn)

### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the funding support of National Science Foundation for Young Scientists of China (21202156), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21372210), the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (WK2060190023) and Natural Science Foundation of Anhui Province (1308085QB37). The authors also thank Nanyang Technological University for the funding of this research. Professor Zhou J.-R (Steve) is acknowledged for valuable discussions.

## REFERENCES

- (1) For selected reviews, see: (a) Nicolaou, K. C.; Bulger, P. G.; Sarlah, D. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 4442. (b) Daugulis, O.; Do, H.-Q.; Shabashov, D. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2009**, *42*, 1074. (c) Chen, X.; Engle, K. M.; Wang, D.-H.; Yu, J.-Q. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 5094. (d) Xu, L.-M.; Li, B.-J.; Yang, Z.; Shi, Z.-J. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2010**, *39*, 712. (e) Lyons, T. W.; Sanford, M. S. *Chem. Rev.* **2010**, *110*, 1147. (f) Yeung, C. S.; Dong, V. M. *Chem. Rev.* **2011**, *111*, 1215. (g) Wencel-Delord, J.; Dröge, T.; Liu, F.; Glorius, F. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2011**, *40*, 4740. (h) Seechurn, C. C. C. J.; Kitching, M. O.; Colacot, T. J.; Snieckus, V. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 5062.
- (2) (a) Rixson, J. E.; Chaloner, T.; Heath, C. H.; Tietze, L.; Stewart, S. G. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *2012*, 544. (b) Tietze, L. F. and Levy, L. M. (2009) *The Mizoroki-Heck Reaction in Domino Processes, in The Mizoroki-Heck Reaction* (Ed: Oestreich, M.), John Wiley &

Sons, Ltd, Chichester, UK. (c) Candito, D. A; Lautens, M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 6713. (d) Von Zezschwitz, P.; de Meijere, A. *Top. Organomet. Chem.* **2006**, *19*, 49-89. (e) de Meijere, A.; von Zezschwitz, P.; Bräse, S. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2005**, *38*, 413. (f) de Meijere A.; Bräse, S. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1999**, *576*, 88. (g) Link, J. T.; Overman, L. E. in *Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions* (Eds: Diederich, F.; Stang P. J.), Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, **1998**, 99–154. (h) de Meijere, A.; Meyer, F. E. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1995**, *33*, 2379.

(3) Please see the references 22-25.

(4) Review paper please see: (a) Ohno, H. *Asian. J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *2*, 18. Palladium catalyzed domino reaction involving  $C(sp^3)$ - $C(sp^2)$  bond formation please see: (b) Ruck, R. T.; Huffman, M. A.; Kim, M. M.; Shevlin, M.; Kandur, W. V.; Davies, I. W. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 4711. (c) Hu, Y.-M.; Yu, C.-L.; Ren, D.; Hu, Q.; Zhang, L.-D.; Cheng, D. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 5448. (d) Satyanarayana, G.; Maichle-Mössmer, C.; Maier, M. E. *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 1571. (e) René, O.; Lapointe, D.; Fagnou, K. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 4560. (f) Piou, T.; Neuville, L.; Zhu, J. P. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 3760. Palladium-catalyzed domino reactions involving  $C(sp^3)$ - $C(sp^3)$  bond formation please see: (g) Catellani, M.; Motti, E.; Ghelli, S. *Chem. Commun.* **2000**, 2003. (h) Liron, F.; Knochel, P. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2007**, *48*, 4943. (i) Kim, H. S.; Gowrisanker, S.; Kim, S. H.; Kim, J. N. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, *49*, 3858. (j) Huang, Q.; Larock, R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 7235. (k) Wu, T.; Mu, X.; Liu, G. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 12578. (l) Piou, T.; Neuville, L.; Zhu, J. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 11561. (m) Piou, T.; Bunesco, A.; Wang, Q.; Neuville, L.; Zhu, J. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 12385.

(5) For review paper see : Ma, S.; Gu, Z. H. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 7512.

(6) (a) Zhou, H.; Xu, Y.-H.; Chung, W. J.; Loh, T. P. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 5355. (b) Zhou, H.; Chung, W. J.; Xu, Y.-H.; Loh, T. P. *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 45, 3472. (c) Zhang, J.; Loh, T. P. *Chem. Commun.* **2012**, 48, 11232. (d) Pankajakshan, S.; Xu, Y.-H.; Cheng, J. K.; Low, M. T.; Loh, T. P. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 5701. (e) Feng, C.; Loh, T. P. *Chem. Sci.* **2012**, *3*, 3458. (f) Feng, C.; Loh, T. P. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 12414. (g) Wen, Z.-K.; Xu, Y.-H.; Loh, T. P. *Chem. Sci.* **2013**, *4*, 4520.

(7) (a) Bombrun, A.; Sageot, O. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1997**, *38*, 1057. (b) Kim, G.; Kim, J.-H.; Kim, W.; Kim, Y. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 8207. (c) Lee, C.-S.; Yu, T.-C.; Luo, J.-W.; Cheng, Y.-Y.; Chuang, C.-P. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 4558. (d) For review paper see: Majumdar, K. C.; Samanta, S.; Sinha, B. *Synthesis* **2012**, 44, 817. and references cited therein.

(8) (a) Nadri, S.; Joshaghani, M.; Rafiee, E. *Organometallics* **2009**, *28*, 6281. (b) Feuerstein, M.; Doucet, H.; Santelli, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 2191. (c) Tobrman, T.; Dvořák, D. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2004**, *45*, 273. (d) Cabri, W.; Candiani, I.; A. Bedeschi, A.; Santi, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, *57*, 3558. (e) Ruan, J.; Iggo, J. A.; Berry, N. J.; Xiao, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 16689. (f) Amatore, C.; Godin, B.; Jutand, A.; Lemaître, F. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 2002. (g) Deeth, R. J.; Smith, A.; Brown, J. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 7144.

(9) (a) Qin, L.; Ren, X.; Lu, Y.; Li, Y.; Zhou, J. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 5915. (b) Zou, Y.; Qin, L.; Ren, X.; Lu, Y.; Li, Y.; Zhou, J. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2013**, *19*, 3504.

(10) (a) Tian, Q.; Larock, R. C. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 3329. (b) Larock, R. C.; Tian, Q. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 7372. (c) Campo, M. A.; Larock, R. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 14326. (d) Campo, M. A.; Huang, Q.; Yao, T.; Tian, Q.; Larock, R. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 11506. (e) Huang, Q.; Fazio, A.; Dai, G.; Campo, M. A.; Larock, R. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 7460. (f) Huang, Q.; Campo, M. A.; Yao, T.; Tian, Q.; Larock, R. C. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 8251. (g) Zhao, J.; Larock, R. C. *Org. Lett.* **2005**, *7*, 701. (h) Jian, J.; Campo, M.; Larock, R. C. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 1873.

(11) Norbornene mediated 1,4-palladium migration examples see: Catellani, M.; Motti, E.; Della Cá, N. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2008**, *41*, 1512. and references cited therein.

(12) (a) Sickert, M.; Weinstabl, H.; Peters, B.; Hou, X.; Lautens, M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 5147. (b) Lautens, M.; Piguel, S.

*Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2000**, *39*, 1045. (c) Bressy, C.; Alberico, D.; Lautens, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 13148. (d) Mariampillai, B.; Alberico, D.; Bidau, V.; Lautens, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 14436. (e) Rudolph, A.; Rackelmann, N.; Lautens, M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 1485. (f) Liu, H.; El-Salfiti, M.; Lautens, M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *39*, 9846.

(13) Karig, G.; Moon, M.-T.; Thasana, N.; Gallagher, T. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 3115.

(14) Cámpora, J.; López, J. A.; Palma, P.; Valerga, P.; Spillner, E.; Carmona, E. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1999**, *38*, 147.

(15) Barder, T. E.; Walker, S. D.; Martinelli, J. R.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 4685.

(16) (a) Dyker, G. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1992**, *31*, 1023. (b) Dyker, G. *J. Org. Chem.* **1993**, *58*, 6426. (c) Dyker, G. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1994**, *33*, 103. (d) Dyker, G. *Chem. Ber.* **1994**, *127*, 739.

(17) Wang, L.; Pan, Y.; Jiang, X.; Hu, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2000**, *41*, 725.

(18) Lu, Z.; Hu, C.; Guo, J.; Li, J.; Cui, Y.; Jia, Y. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 480.

(19) Kim, K. H.; Lee, H. S.; Kim, S. H.; Kim, S. H.; Kim, J. N. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 2375.

(20) Selective examples on triethylamine serving as possible reductant in palladium-catalyzed coupling reactions see: (a) R. McCrindle, R.; Ferguson, G.; Arsenaault, G. J.; McAlees, A. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1983**, 571. (b) Tian, Q.; Pletnev, A. A.; Larock, R. C. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 339. (c) Cacchi, S.; Fabrizi, G.; Gavazza, F.; Goggiamani, A. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 289. (d) Lautens, M.; Tayama, E.; Herse, C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 72.

(21) (a) Grigg, R.; Stevenson, P.; Worakun, T. *Chem. Commun.* **1984**, 1073. (b) McClure, K. F.; Danishefsky, S. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 6094. (c) Negishi, E.; Copéret, C.; Ma, S.; Liou, S.-Y.; Liu, F. *Chem. Rev.* **1996**, *96*, 365. and references cited therein. (d) Firmansjah, L.; Fu, G. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 11340.

(22) For review paper see: (a) Zeni, G.; Larock, R. C. *Chem. Rev.* **2004**, *104*, 2285. (b) Tsuji, J. *Palladium Reagents and Catalysts*; Wiley: Chichester, UK, 2004, 500. (c) Tsuji, J. *Tetrahedron* **1986**, *42*, 4361. (d) Tsuji, J.; Minami, I. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1987**, *20*, 140. and references cited therein. (e) Han, X.; Liu, G.; Lu, X. *Chin. J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *25*, 1182. (f) Werner, E. W.; Mei, T.-S.; Burckle, A. J.; Sigman, M. S. *Science* **2012**, *338*, 1455. (g) Pan, D.; Chen, A.; Su, Y.; Zhou, W.; Li, S.; Jia, W.; Xiao, J.; Liu, Q.; Zhang, L.; Jiao, N. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 4729.

(23) For selective examples see: (a) Heck, R. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1968**, *90*, 5535. (b) Kasahara, A.; Izumi, T.; Fukuda, N. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1977**, *50*, 551. (c) Choudary, B. M.; Ravichandra Sarma, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1990**, *31*, 1495. (d) Ohmiya, H.; Makida, Y.; Tanaka, T.; Sawamura, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 17276. (e) Davies, D. L.; Donald, S. M. A.; Macgregor, S. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 13754. (f) Seomoon, D.; Lee, K.; Kim, H.; Lee, P. H. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 5197. (g) Yao, B.; Liu, Y.; Wang, M. K.; Li, J. H.; Tang, R. Y.; Zhang, X. G.; Deng, C. L. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2012**, *354*, 1069. (h) Nguetack, J.-F.; Bolitt, V.; Sinou, D. *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, *62*, 1341. (i) Zhang, Q.; Lu, X. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 7604.

(24) (a) Heck, R. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1968**, *90*, 5531. (b) Zhang, Z.; Lu, X.; Xu, Z.; Zhang, Q.; Han, X. *Organometallics* **2001**, *20*, 3724. (c) Foley, S. R.; Stockland, R. A.; Shen, Jr. H.; Jordan, R. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 4350. (d) Ma, S.-M.; Yu, Z. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 6149. (e) Alcaide, B.; Almendros, P.; Alonso, J. M.; Quiros, M. T.; Gadzinski, P. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2011**, *353*, 1871. (f) Zhu, G.; Lu, X. *Organometallics* **1995**, *14*, 4899. (g) Lu, X. *Top. Catal.* **2005**, *35*, 73.

(25) (a) Terao, Y.; Wakui, H.; Satoh, T.; Miura, M.; Nomura, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 10407. (b) Terao, Y.; Wakui, H.; Nomoto, M.; Satoh, T.; Miura, M.; Nomura, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 5236. (c) Nishimura, T.; Uemura, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, *121*, 11010. (d) Nemoto, H.; Yoshida, M.; Fukumoto, K. *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, *62*, 6450. (e) Larock, R. C.; Reddy, C. K. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 3325. (f) Larock, R. C.; Reddy, C. K. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 2027. (g) Yoshida, M.; Sugimoto, K.; Ihara, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2000**, *41*, 5089.



(h) Nagao, Y.; Ueki, A.; Asano, K.; Tanaka, S.; Sano, S.; Shiro, M. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 455. (i) Nishimura, T.; Uemura, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 12049. (j) Park S. B.; Cha, J. K. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 147. (k) Nishimura, T.; Ohe, K.; Uemura, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, *121*, 2645.

(26) (a) For  $\beta$ -N-Pd elimination between vinylpalladium species generated in situ with allylic amine see: Arcadi, A.; Cacchi, S.; Fabrizi, G.; Marinelli, F.; Parisi, L. M. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2003**, 687, 562. For another example including  $\beta$ -N cleavage see: (b) Lv, P. Huang, K.; Xie, L.; Xu, X. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2011**, *9*, 3133.

(27) (a) Odle, R.; Blevins, B.; Ratcliff, M.; Hegedus, L. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1980**, *45*, 2709. (b) Larock, R. C. Babu, S. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1987**, *28*, 5291. (c) Grigg, R.; Stevenson, P.; Worakun, T. *Tetrahedron* **1988**, *44*, 2033. (d) Dankwardt, J. W.; Flippin, L. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, *60*, 2312. Also please see 7a.

(28) (a) Newman, S. G.; Lautens, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 1778. (b) Newman, S. G.; Howell, J. K.; Nicolaus, N.; Lautens, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 14916. (c) Lan, Y.; Liu, P.; Newman, S. G.; Lauten, M.; Houk, K. N. *Chem. Sci.* **2012**, *3*, 1987. (d) Petrone, D. A.; Malik, H. A.; Clemenceau, A.; Lautens, M. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 4806. (e) Petrone, D. A.; Lischka, M.; Lautens, M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 10635. (f) Petrone, D. A.; Yoon, H.; Weinstabl, H.; Lautens, M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2014**, *50*, 7908. Also please see reference 20d.

(29) Roy, A. H.; Hartwig, J. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 13944.

(30) Please see references 4l and 4m.

(31) (a) Yang, C.-T.; Fu, Y.; Huang, Y.-B.; Yi, J.; Guo, Q.-X.; Liu, L. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 7398. (b) Ouyang, K.; Xi, Z. *Acta Chim. Sinica.* **2013**, *71*, 13. and references cited therein.

