

# Pd(0)-Catalyzed Sequential C–N Bond Formation via Allylic and Aromatic C–H Amination of $\alpha$ -Methylstyrenes with Diaziridinone

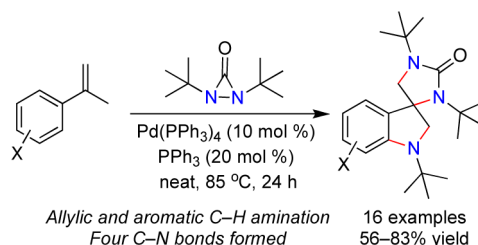
Thomas A. Ramirez, Qian Wang, Yingguang Zhu, Huaiji Zheng, Xingao Peng, Richard G. Cornwall, and Yian Shi\*

Department of Chemistry, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, United States

yian@lamar.colostate.edu

Received July 10, 2013

## ABSTRACT



A novel Pd(0)-catalyzed sequential C–N bond formation process via allylic and aromatic C–H amination of  $\alpha$ -methylstyrenes with di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone, giving spirocyclic indolines in good yields, is described. Four C–N bonds and one spiro quaternary carbon are generated in a single operation.

C–N bond formation is very important in organic synthesis, and various effective methods have been developed.<sup>1</sup>

(1) For leading reviews, see: (a) Osborn, H. M. I.; Sweeney, J. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **1997**, 8, 1693. (b) Lucet, D.; Le Gall, T.; Mioskowski, C. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1998**, 37, 2580. (c) Wolfe, J. P.; Wagaw, S.; Marcoux, J.-F.; Buchwald, S. L. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1998**, 31, 805. (d) Hartwig, J. F. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1998**, 31, 852. (e) Ley, S. V.; Thomas, A. W. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2003**, 42, 5400. (f) Hultsch, K. C. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2005**, 347, 367. (g) Muzart, J. *Tetrahedron* **2005**, 61, 4179. (h) Kotti, S. R. S.; Timmons, C.; Li, G. *Chem. Biol. Drug Des.* **2006**, 67, 101. (i) Singh, G. S.; D'hooghe, M.; De Kimpe, N. *Chem. Rev.* **2007**, 107, 2080. (j) Beccalli, E. M.; Brogini, G.; Martinelli, M.; Sottocornola, S. *Chem. Rev.* **2007**, 107, 5318. (k) Jensen, K. H.; Sigman, M. S. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2008**, 6, 4083. (l) Lin, G.-Q.; Xu, M.-H.; Zhong, Y.-W.; Sun, X.-W. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2008**, 41, 831. (m) de Figueiredo, R. M. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 1190. (n) Cardona, F.; Goti, A. *Nat. Chem.* **2009**, 1, 269. (o) Fischer, C.; Koenig, B. *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, 7, 59. (p) Chemler, S. R. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2011**, 696, 150. (q) De Jong, S.; Nosal, D. G.; Wardrop, D. J. *Tetrahedron* **2012**, 68, 4067. (r) Song, G.; Wang, F.; Li, X. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2012**, 41, 3651.

(2) For leading reviews on C–H amination, see: (a) Katsuki, T. *Synlett* **2003**, 281. (b) Müller, P.; Fruit, C. *Chem. Rev.* **2003**, 103, 2905. (c) Davies, H. M. L.; Long, M. S. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 3518. (d) Li, Z.; He, C. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 4313. (e) Fantauzzi, S.; Caselli, A.; Gallo, E. *Dalton Trans.* **2009**, 5434. (f) Collet, F.; Dodd, R. H.; Dauban, P. *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 5061. (g) Zalatan, D. N.; Du Bois, J. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2010**, 292, 347. (h) Driver, T. G. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2010**, 8, 3831. (i) Cho, S. H.; Kim, J. Y.; Kwak, J.; Chang, S. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2011**, 40, 5068. (j) Ramirez, T. A.; Zhao, B.; Shi, Y. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2012**, 41, 931. (k) Gephart, R. T., III; Warren, T. H. *Organometallics* **2012**, 31, 7728. (l) Roizen, J. L.; Harvey, M. E.; Du Bois, J. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2012**, 45, 911.

Direct C–H amination presents an attractive approach to construct C–N bonds and remains an active area.<sup>2</sup> In our previous studies on the Pd(0)-catalyzed diamination<sup>3,4</sup> of olefins with di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**),<sup>5,6</sup> we have found that terminal olefins **2** (R = CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2</sup>) can be aminated at allylic and homoallylic carbons to give diamination products **3** (Scheme 1).<sup>4</sup> This diamination process likely proceeds via a diene intermediate, generated from the terminal olefin via allylic C–H activation to form a  $\pi$ -allyl Pd complex and subsequent  $\beta$ -hydride elimination.<sup>4</sup> In our efforts to further explore the reactivity of diaziridinone, we have investigated terminal olefins which lack homoallylic

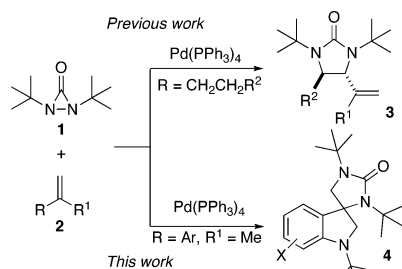
(3) For examples of Pd(0)-catalyzed diamination of conjugated dienes using **1**, see: (a) Du, H.; Zhao, B.; Shi, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 129, 762. (b) Zhao, B.; Du, H.; Cui, S.; Shi, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 3523.

(4) For examples of Pd(0)-catalyzed allylic and homoallylic C–H diamination of terminal olefins using **1**, see: (a) Du, H.; Yuan, W.; Zhao, B.; Shi, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 129, 7496. (b) Du, H.; Zhao, B.; Shi, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 8590.

(5) For a leading review on diaziridinones, see: Heine, H. W. In *The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds*; Hassner, A., Ed.; John Wiley & Sons, Inc: New York, 1983; p 547.

(6) For the preparation of di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**), see: (a) Greene, F. D.; Stowell, J. C.; Bergmark, W. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1969**, 34, 2254. (b) Du, H.; Zhao, B.; Shi, Y. *Org. Synth.* **2009**, 86, 315.

Scheme 1

Table 1. Studies on Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>

| entry | catalyst                               | ligand (x mol %)                                 | yield <sup>b</sup> (%) |
|-------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1     | $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$                   | —                                                | 18                     |
| 2     | $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$                   | —                                                | 51                     |
| 3     | $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$                   | $\text{PPh}_3$ (10 mol %)                        | 58                     |
| 4     | <b><math>\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4</math></b> | <b><math>\text{PPh}_3</math> (20 mol %)</b>      | <b>75</b>              |
| 5     | $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$                   | $\text{PPh}_3$ (30 mol %)                        | 62                     |
| 6     | —                                      | $\text{PPh}_3$ (60 mol %)                        | 0                      |
| 7     | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | —                                                | 0                      |
| 8     | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | $\text{PPh}_3$ (60 mol %)                        | 65                     |
| 9     | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | $\text{P}(p\text{-MeO-Ph})_3$ (60 mol %)         | 36                     |
| 10    | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | $\text{P}(p\text{-tolyl})_3$ (60 mol %)          | 51                     |
| 11    | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | $\text{P}(o\text{-tolyl})_3$ (60 mol %)          | 0                      |
| 12    | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | $\text{P}(p\text{-F}_3\text{C-Ph})_3$ (60 mol %) | 35                     |
| 13    | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | dppp (30 mol %)                                  | 0                      |
| 14    | $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$            | BINAP (30 mol %)                                 | 0                      |

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were carried out with olefin **2a** (0.40 mmol), di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) (1.60 mmol),  $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$  (0.040 mmol) or  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$  (0.020 mmol), and appropriate phosphine ligand at 85 °C under Ar for 24 h unless otherwise stated. For entry 1, di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) was added in one portion. For entries 2–14, di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) was slowly added over 10 h via syringe pump. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield based on olefin **2a**.

hydrogens and thus cannot form dienes under the reaction conditions. During such studies, it has been found that spirocyclic indolines **4** can be obtained when  $\alpha$ -methylstyrenes were treated with di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) and a Pd(0) catalyst (Scheme 1).<sup>7</sup> The reaction likely proceeds via

(7) For leading references on indolines derived from Pd-catalyzed C–H activation: (a) Watanabe, T.; Oishi, S.; Fujii, N.; Ohno, H. *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 1759. (b) Houlden, C. E.; Bailey, C. D.; Ford, J. G.; Gagné, M. R.; Lloyd-Jones, G. C.; Booker-Milburn, K. I. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 10066. (c) Mei, T.-S.; Wang, X.; Yu, J.-Q. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 10806. (d) Neumann, J. J.; Rakshit, S.; Dröge, T.; Glorius, F. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 6892. (e) Nakanishi, M.; Katayev, D.; Besnard, C.; Kündig, E. P. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 7438. (f) He, G.; Zhao, Y.; Zhang, S.; Lu, C.; Chen, G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 3. (g) He, G.; Lu, C.; Zhao, Y.; Nack, W. A.; Chen, G. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 2944. (h) Saget, T.; Lemouzy, S. J.; Cramer, N. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 2238. (i) Mei, T.-S.; Leow, D.; Xiao, H.; Laforteza, B. N.; Yu, J.-Q. *Org. Lett.* **2013**, *15*, 3058.

Table 2. Substrate Scope<sup>a</sup>

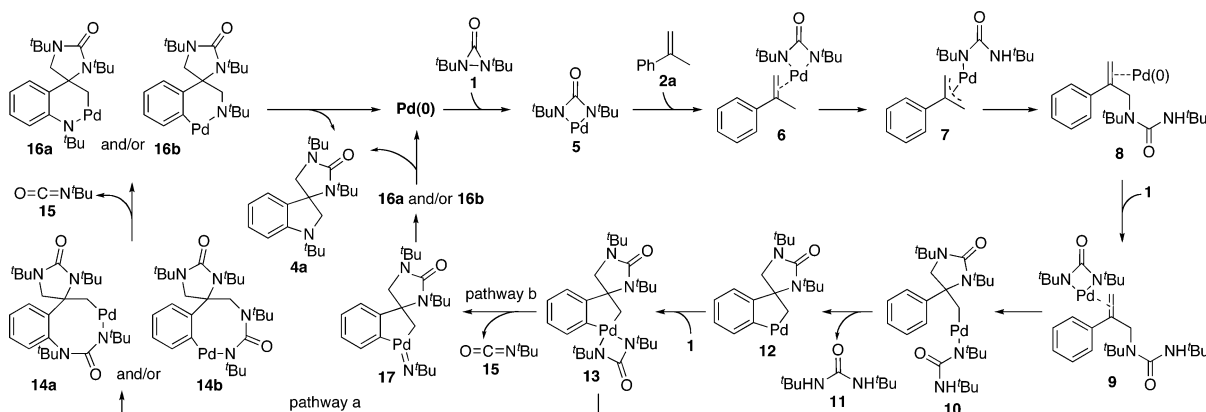
| entry | substrate ( <b>2</b> )             | product ( <b>4</b> ) | yield (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1     | <b>2a</b> , X = H                  | <b>4a</b>            | 75                     |
| 2     | <b>2b</b> , X = OMe                | <b>4b</b>            | 81                     |
| 3     | <b>2c</b> , X = Me                 | <b>4c</b>            | 71                     |
| 4     | <b>2d</b> , X = <i>i</i> -Pr       | <b>4d</b>            | 70                     |
| 5     | <b>2e</b> , X = <i>t</i> -Bu       | <b>4e</b>            | 61                     |
| 6     | <b>2f</b> , X = F                  | <b>4f</b>            | 73                     |
| 7     | <b>2g</b> , X = Cl                 | <b>4g</b>            | 69                     |
| 8     | <b>2h</b> , X = Br                 | <b>4h</b>            | 63                     |
| 9     | <b>2i</b> , X = CO <sub>2</sub> Me | <b>4i</b>            | 81                     |
| 10    | <b>2j</b> , X = OMe                | <b>4j</b>            | 79                     |
| 11    | <b>2k</b> , X = Me                 | <b>4k</b>            | 74                     |
| 12    | <b>2l</b> , X = Cl                 | <b>4l</b>            | 68                     |
| 13    | <b>2m</b> , X = Br                 | <b>4m</b>            | 64                     |
| 14    | <b>2n</b>                          | <b>4n</b>            | 70                     |
| 15    | <b>2o</b>                          | <b>4o</b>            | 56                     |
| 16    | <b>2p</b>                          | <b>4p</b>            | 83                     |

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were carried out with olefin **2** (0.40 mmol), di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) (1.60 mmol) (added over 10 h via syringe pump),  $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$  (0.040 mmol), and  $\text{PPh}_3$  (0.080 mmol) at 85 °C under Ar for 24 h (total). <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. The ratio of the regioisomers was determined to be > 20:1 (for entries 10, 11, 13, and 15), 8:1 (for entry 12), and 10:1 (for entry 14) by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture.

a novel C–H activation and C–N bond formation process. Herein, we report our preliminary studies on this subject.

Our initial studies were carried out with  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene (**2a**) as the test substrate. Treating **2a** with di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) and 10 mol % of  $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$  under neat conditions at 85 °C for 24 h gave spirocyclic indoline **4a** in

**Scheme 2.** Proposed Catalytic Cycle



18% yield (Table 1, entry 1). The yield was increased to 51% when di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) was added slowly over 10 h via syringe pump (Table 1, entry 2). The yield was further improved with addition of  $\text{PPh}_3$  ligand to the reaction system, with 20 mol % of  $\text{PPh}_3$  being optimal (Table 1, entries 3–5). No reaction was observed with  $\text{PPh}_3$  alone (Table 1, entry 6). The reaction was also investigated with  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$  as catalyst (Table 1, entries 7–14). No product was formed without additional ligand (Table 1, entry 7). The nature of the ligand has a dramatic effect on the product yield. Among the ligands examined,  $\text{PPh}_3$  gave the highest yield (Table 1, entry 8), and essentially no product was obtained with  $\text{P}(o\text{-tolyl})_3$ ,  $\text{dppp}$ , or  $\text{BINAP}$  (Table 1, entries 11, 13, and 14).

As shown in Table 2, the reaction process can be extended to various *para*-, *meta*-, di-, and trisubstituted  $\alpha$ -methylstyrenes **2b–p**, giving the corresponding spirocyclic indoline products **4b–p** in 56–83% yield (Table 2, entries 2–16). For entries 10–15, the reaction generally occurred at the less sterically hindered position (for the X-ray data of **4j** and **4n**, see the Supporting Information). In the cases of entries 10, 11, 13, and 15, the reactions proceeded with high regioselectivity (> 20:1).

While a precise understanding of the reaction mechanism awaits further study, a plausible catalytic pathway is proposed in Scheme 2. The  $\text{Pd}(0)$  first inserts into the

N–N bond of di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) to give four-membered  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$  species **5**, which then forms complex **6** with  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene (**2a**). Abstraction of an allylic hydrogen from **6** leads to  $\pi$ -allyl  $\text{Pd}$  complex **7**,<sup>8,9</sup> which affords allyl urea-ligated  $\text{Pd}(0)$  intermediate **8** via reductive elimination.<sup>10</sup> Reaction of intermediate **8** with another equivalent of **1** provides **9**, which undergoes a  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$ -catalyzed cyclization to give **10**.<sup>11,12</sup> Subsequently, **10** undergoes an intramolecular aromatic C–H activation to form urea **11** and pallada(II)cycle **12**,<sup>13</sup> which inserts into the N–N bond of **1** to give pallada(IV)cycle **13**. Reductive elimination of pallada(IV)cycle **13** leads to eight-membered pallada(II)cycle **14a** and/or **14b** (pathway a), which is transformed to **16a** and/or **16b** by releasing *tert*-butyl isocyanate (**15**).<sup>14</sup> Upon reductive elimination, **16a** and/or **16b** is converted to spirocyclic indoline **4a** with the regeneration of the  $\text{Pd}(0)$  catalyst. Alternatively,

(11) For leading reviews on  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$ -catalyzed cyclization of olefins with N and O nucleophiles, see: (a) Hegedus, L. S. *Tetrahedron* **1984**, *40*, 2415. (b) Müller, T. E.; Beller, M. *Chem. Rev.* **1998**, *98*, 675. (c) Stoltz, B. M. *Chem. Lett.* **2004**, *33*, 362. (d) Sigman, M. S.; Schultz, M. J. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2004**, *2*, 2551. (e) Wolfe, J. P.; Thomas, J. S. *Curr. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *9*, 625. (f) Zeni, G.; Larock, R. C. *Chem. Rev.* **2006**, *106*, 4644. (g) Minatti, A.; Muñoz, K. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2007**, *36*, 1142. (h) Kotov, V.; Scarborough, C. C.; Stahl, S. S. *Inorg. Chem.* **2007**, *46*, 1910.

(12) For  $\text{Pd}$ -catalyzed allylic C–H amination and subsequent cyclization using *N,N*-di-*tert*-butylthiadiaziridine 1,1-dioxide, see: Wang, B.; Du, H.; Shi, Y. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 8224.

(13) For leading reviews on palladacycles derived from C–H activation, see: (a) Dyker, G. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1999**, *38*, 1698. (b) Kakiuchi, F.; Chatani, N. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2003**, *345*, 1077. (c) Catellani, M. *Synlett* **2003**, 298. (d) Alberico, D.; Scott, M. E.; Lautens, M. *Chem. Rev.* **2007**, *107*, 174. (e) Catellani, M.; Motti, E.; Della Ca', N. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2008**, *41*, 1512. (f) Kakiuchi, F.; Kochi, T. *Synthesis* **2008**, 3013. (g) Muñoz, K. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 9412. (h) Ackermann, L.; Vicente, R.; Kapdi, A. R. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 9792. (i) Jazzar, R.; Hitce, J.; Renaudat, A.; Sofack-Kreutzer, J.; Baudoin, O. *Chem.—Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 2654. (j) Xu, L.-M.; Li, B.-J.; Yang, Z.; Shi, Z.-J. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2010**, *39*, 712. (k) Sehnaal, P.; Taylor, R. J. K.; Fairlamb, I. J. S. *Chem. Rev.* **2010**, *110*, 824. (l) Shi, F.; Larock, R. C. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2010**, *292*, 123. (m) Martins, A.; Mariampillai, B.; Lautens, M. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **2010**, *292*, 1. (n) McMurray, L.; O'Hara, F.; Gaunt, M. J. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2011**, *40*, 1885. (o) Wencel-Delord, J.; Dröge, T.; Liu, F.; Glorius, F. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2011**, *40*, 4740. (p) Malinakova, H. C. *Top. Organomet. Chem.* **2011**, *35*, 85.

(14) (a) Komatsu, M.; Tamabuchi, S.; Minakata, S.; Ohshiro, Y. *Heterocycles* **1999**, *50*, 67. (b) Bocelli, G.; Catellani, M.; Cugini, F.; Ferraccioli, R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1999**, *40*, 2623. (c) Paul, F.; Fischer, J.; Ochsenbein, P.; Osborn, J. A. *C. R. Chimie* **2002**, *5*, 267.

(8) For leading reviews on the generation of  $\pi$ -allyl  $\text{Pd}$  complexes from olefins with  $\text{PdX}_2$ , see: (a) Trost, B. M. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1980**, *13*, 385. (b) Åkermark, B.; Zetterberg, K. In *Handbook of Organopalladium Chemistry for Organic Synthesis*; Negishi, E.-I., Ed.; Wiley: New York, 2002; p 1875. (c) Trost, B. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 5813.

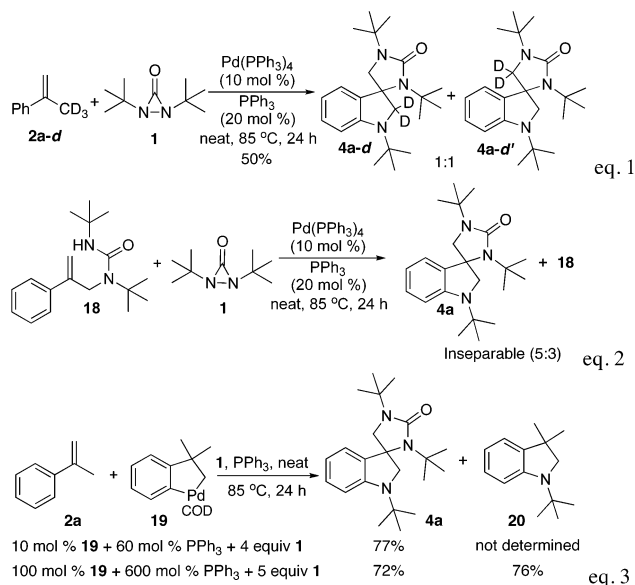
(9) For a book on  $\text{Pd}$  chemistry, see: Tsuji, J. *Palladium Reagents and Catalysts: New Perspective for the 21st Century*; Wiley: New York, 2004.

(10) For leading references on  $\text{Pd}$ -promoted or catalyzed allylic C–H amination, see: (a) Heathcock, C. H.; Stafford, J. A.; Clark, D. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, *57*, 2575. (b) van der Schaaf, P. A.; Sutter, J.-P.; Grellier, M.; van Mier, G. P. M.; Spek, A. L.; van Koten, G.; Pfeiffer, M. J. *Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 5134. (c) Larock, R. C.; Hightower, T. R.; Hasvold, L. A.; Peterson, K. P. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 3584. (d) Fraunhoffer, K. J.; White, M. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 7274. (e) Liu, G.; Yin, G.; Wu, L. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 4733. (f) Wasa, M.; Yu, J.-Q. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 14058. (g) Rice, G. T.; White, M. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 11707. (h) Reed, S. A.; Mazzotti, A. R.; White, M. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 11701. (i) Wu, L.; Qiu, S.; Liu, G. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 2707. (j) Yin, G.; Wu, Y.; Liu, G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 11978.

pallada(IV)cycl $\text{e}$  **13** releases a molecule of *tert*-butyl isocyanate (**15**) to form Pd(IV)-nitrene **17**<sup>15</sup> (pathway b), which undergoes two consecutive reductive eliminations to give product **4a** via **16a** and/or **16b** and to regenerate the Pd(0) catalyst.

To gain some insight into the reaction mechanism, additional experiments were performed (Schemes 3).

**Scheme 3**



When deuterium-labeled  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene **2a-d** was subjected to the standard reaction conditions, equal amounts of indoline products **4a-d** and **4a-d'** were obtained in 50% yield (Scheme 3, eq 1). This result suggests that  $\pi$ -allyl Pd

(15) For leading references on Pd-nitrene species, see: (a) Reference 2g. (b) Migita, T.; Hongoh, K.; Naka, H.; Nakaido, S.; Kosugi, M. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1988**, *61*, 931. (c) Abboud, K. A.; Villanueva, L. A.; Boncella, J. M. *Acta Crystallogr.* **1993**, *C49*, 1848. (d) Besenyei, G.; Párkányi, L.; Foch, I.; Simándi, L. I.; Kálmán, A. *Chem. Commun.* **1997**, 1143. (e) Foch, I.; Párkányi, L.; Besenyei, G.; Simándi, L. I.; Kálmán, A. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1999**, 293. (f) Stromnova, T. A.; Orlova, S. T.; Kazyul'kin, D. N.; Stolyarov, I. P.; Eremenko, I. L. *Russ. Chem. Bull.* **2000**, *49*, 150. (g) Thu, H.-Y.; Yu, W.-Y.; Che, C.-M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 9048. (h) Ng, K.-H.; Chan, A. S. C.; Yu, W.-Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 12862. (i) Chiba, S.; Zhang, L.; Sanjaya, S.; Ang, G. Y. *Tetrahedron* **2010**, *66*, 5692. (j) Ng, K.-H.; Ng, F.-N.; Yu, W.-Y. *Chem. Commun.* **2012**, *48*, 11680.

complex **7** is very likely to be involved in this process. Attempts to isolate any reaction intermediates were unsuccessful. Allyl urea **18** was subsequently prepared and subjected to the reaction conditions. It was found that **18** did cyclize to provide indoline **4a** (eq 2), which is also in agreement with the reaction mechanism described in Scheme 2. A known palladacycle **19**<sup>16</sup> was also prepared and was found to be catalytically active. Treating  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene (**2a**) with di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) in the presence of 10 mol % of **19** and 60 mol % of PPh<sub>3</sub> at 85 °C for 24 h gave indoline **4a** in 77% yield along with small amounts of indoline **20** (eq 3). When stoichiometric amounts of **19** were used, indolines **4a** and **20** were obtained in 72% and 76% yield, respectively. These results suggest that palladacycle **12** is a likely intermediate in the catalytic cycle and can be converted into the indoline **4a**.

In summary, we have discovered a novel Pd(0)-catalyzed C–N bond formation process of  $\alpha$ -methylstyrenes with di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone (**1**) via sequential allylic and aromatic C–H amination. Various  $\alpha$ -methylstyrenes can be converted to spirocyclic indolines in good yields with the generation of four C–N bonds and one spiro quaternary carbon in a single operation. The ability of di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone to be oxidatively inserted into a R<sub>2</sub>Pd(II) species further illustrates its versatile reactivity and opens up more opportunities for new reaction development with this class of compounds. Such studies are currently underway.

**Acknowledgment.** We are grateful for the generous financial support from the General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (GM083944-06).

**Supporting Information Available.** Experimental procedure, characterization of all compounds, and crystallographic information file for compounds **4a,j,n**, and **19**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

(16) For the preparation of palladacycle **19**, see: (a) Cámpora, J.; López, J. A.; Palma, P.; del Rio, D.; Carmona, E.; Valerga, P.; Graiff, C.; Tiripicchio, A. *Inorg. Chem.* **2001**, *40*, 4116. (b) Cámpora, J.; López, J. A.; Palma, P.; Valerga, P.; Spillner, E.; Carmona, E. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1999**, *38*, 147.

The authors declare no competing financial interest.