

A One-Pot Iodo-Cyclization/Transition Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Sequence: Synthesis of Substituted Oxazolidin-2-ones from *N*-Boc-allylamines

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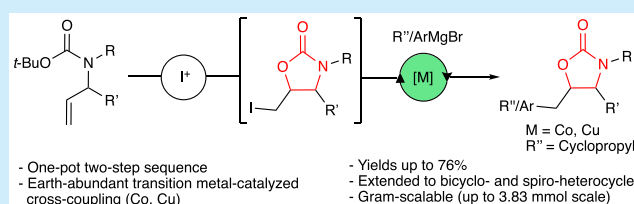


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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A one-pot iodo-cyclization/transition metal-catalyzed cross-coupling sequence is reported to access various C5-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones from unsaturated *N*-Boc-allylamines. Depending on the Grignard reagents used for the cross-coupling, e.g., aryl- or cyclopropylmagnesium bromide, a cobalt or copper catalyst has to be used to obtain the functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones in good yields.



Oxazolidin-2-ones have been widely developed especially as chiral auxiliaries since the development of Evans aldolization using C4-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones.¹ Despite the fact that C5-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones have low benefit toward chiral induction, they are of interest as biologically active compounds. In 1978, E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company reported for the first time their antibiotic activity,² and since then, these heterocycles are highly represented among several bioactive compounds, such as linezolid and derivatives as antibacterial agents,³ the antidepressant tolloxatone,⁴ and fenspiride, a bronchodilator.⁵ In addition, functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones are also present in alkaloid natural products such as in the stemoxazolidinone family⁶ (Figure 1).

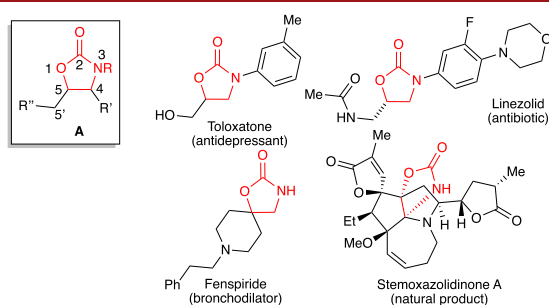
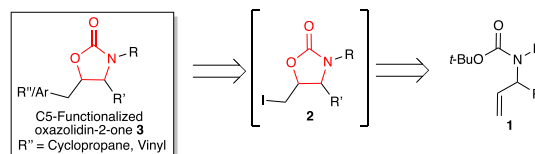


Figure 1. C5-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones in drugs and natural products.

Despite a large range of synthetic methods leading to such heterocycles,⁷ CO₂ insertion into amino alcohols, epoxy amines, or aziridines was developed.⁸ However, an efficient strategy allowing the synthesis of oxazolidin-2-ones of type A by introducing a diversity of R''/Ar groups at the C5' position, at a late stage, would be of interest (Figure 1).

Nowadays, the development of methods in organic synthesis is mainly driven by the use of nontoxic, cheap, and earth-abundant metals. For example, in cross-couplings, the replacement of palladium catalysts by metals of the fourth row of the periodic table, such as Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu, is favored.^{9–13} In the context of our studies on cobalt-catalyzed cross-couplings between alkyl halides and Grignard reagents,¹⁴ we report herein a one-pot iodo-cyclization/cross-coupling sequence to access a diversity of C5-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones **3** from easily accessible unsaturated *N*-Boc-allylamines (Scheme 1).

Scheme 1. Synthesis of C5-Functionnalized Oxazolidin-2-ones **3** from *N*-Boc-allylamines **1**



At first, the intramolecular iodo-cyclization starting from *N*-Boc-*N*-benzyl-allylamine **1a** (R = Bn, R' = H) was optimized (see Table S1). The best reaction conditions to access *N*-benzyl-5-iodomethyloxazolidin-2-one **2a** were found to be the use of *N*-iodosuccinimide (NIS) (1 equiv) in refluxing THF ($c = 0.67 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$), in a sealed tube for 1 h,

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leading to **2a** which was isolated in 80% yield. Having the best conditions to access the iodo derivatives **2**, the one-pot iodo-cyclization/cross-coupling was then examined, and the optimization of the reaction conditions was achieved (Table 1). Based on our previous experience,¹⁴ once the iodo-cyclization to access intermediate **2a** was complete, the cross-coupling of this latter with PhMgBr (1.5 equiv, rate of addition $\nu = 0.26 \text{ mmol}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$) was explored by screening various cobalt salts (at 0 °C for 40 min). By using CoCl₂ (15 mol %) in the presence of a diamine ligand such as *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA, 1 equiv), only traces of the expected compound **3a** were observed, while Co(acac)₂ (15 mol %) gave **3a** in 9% yield (¹H NMR yield) and Co(acac)₃ (15 mol %) led to **3a** in 11% yield (¹H NMR yield) (Table 1, entries 1–3). Using Co(acac)₃ and increasing the excess of PhMgBr from 1.5 to 3 equiv, **3a** was formed in 47% yield (¹H NMR yield) (Table 1, entry 4). Pleasingly, when the addition rate of PhMgBr was increased from 0.26 to 0.52 mmol·h⁻¹, **3a** was isolated in 74% yield (Table 1, entry 5). In addition, upon decreasing the catalyst loading of Co(acac)₃, from 15 to 10 mol %, and the amount of TMEDA, from 100 to 40 mol %, with a faster addition rate of PhMgBr (1.04 versus 0.52 mmol·h⁻¹), **3a** could be isolated with a good yield of 76% (Table 1, entry 6). It is worth mentioning that the use of copper salts [CuI and CuCl₂ (15 mol %)] did not allow the cross-coupling of the iodo-oxazolidin-2-one intermediate **2a** (formed *in situ*) with PhMgBr as **3a** was not observed (see Table S2). Furthermore, iron salts [FeCl₂, FeCl₃ and Fe(acac)₃ (15 mol %) in the presence of TMEDA (1 equiv)] allowed the formation of the oxazolidin-2-one **3a**, but in low yield (see Table S2).

Table 1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions for the Cross-Coupling in a One-Pot Sequence to Access Oxazolidin-2-one **3a from *N*-Boc-*N*-benzylallylamine **1a** Using PhMgBr**

entry	[Co] (x mol %)	TMEDA (y mol %)	PhMgBr (z equiv)	ν (mmol·h ⁻¹)	3a (%) ^a
1	CoCl ₂ (15)	100	1.5	0.26	traces
2	Co(acac) ₂ (15)	100	1.5	0.26	9
3	Co(acac) ₃ (15)	100	1.5	0.26	11
4	Co(acac) ₃ (15)	100	3	0.26	47
5	Co(acac) ₃ (15)	100	3	0.52	74 ^b
6	Co(acac) ₃ (10)	40	3	1.04	76 ^b

^a¹H NMR yield determined by using 1,3-dimethoxybenzene as internal standard. ^bIsolated yield.

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, the scope of the one-pot, two-step process was examined with various aryl Grignard reagents and *N*-Boc-allylamines **1**, allowing the access to C5-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones (**3a–i**) (Table 2), bicyclic oxazolidin-2-ones (**3j–l**) and a spirocyclic derivative (**3m**) (Table 3). When electron-poor substituents are present in the *para* position of the aryl Grignard reagent, such as a fluorine atom or, when electron-rich substituents are present in

Table 2. Scope of the One-Pot Two-Step Sequence to Access C5-Functionalized Oxazolidin-2-ones **3a–i from *N*-Boc-allylamines **1a** and **1b** Using Various Arylmagnesium Bromide**

entry	starting material, 1	product, 3	yield (%)
1	1a	3a	76
2	1a	3b	65
3	1a	3c	68
4	1a	3d	62
5	1a	3e	60
6	1a	3f	34
7	1a	3g	37
8	1b	(<i>R,S</i>)- 3h (<i>R,R</i>)- 3i	31 ^{a, b} 31 ^{a, b}

^a**3h** and **3i** were obtained with 98% purity. ^bOver 3.83 mmol scale (1 g), **3h** was isolated with a yield of 33% and **3i** with a yield of 22%.

the *para* position of the aryl group such as a methyl or a methoxy substituent, the corresponding cyclized/coupled products **3b**, **3c**, and **3d** were isolated in good yields (65%, 68%, and 62% yield, respectively) (Table 2, entries 2–4). The *m*-methoxyphenyl Grignard reagent gave also the expected oxazolidin-2-one **3e** in 60% yield (Table 2, entry 5). Sterically hindered *ortho*-substituted Grignard reagents such as the *o*-methylphenyl- or the *o*-methoxyphenylmagnesium bromide led to the corresponding oxazolidin-2-ones **3f** and **3g** in 34% and 37% moderate yields, respectively (Table 2, entries 6 and 7). To access enantioenriched oxazolidin-2-ones, *N*-Boc-*N*-[(*R*)-phenylethyl]allylamine **1b** was treated with PhMgBr, and under the optimized reaction conditions, the two diastereomeric oxazolidin-2-ones **3h** and **3i** were obtained in a 1:1 ratio

Table 3. Scope of the One-Pot Two-Step Sequence to Access Bicyclo- and Spiro-oxazolidin-2-ones 3j–m from *N*-Boc-allylamines 1c–f Using PhMgBr

entry	starting material, 1	product, 3	yield (%) (dr)
1			64 (96:04)
2			51 (90:10)
3			61 (65:35)
4			11 (95:05)

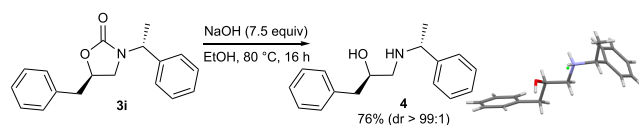
^aRelative stereochemistry not determined.

(determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture). These two diastereomers were easily separated by silica gel column chromatography, and each of them was isolated in 31% yield (Table 2, entry 8). This sequence of reactions was scaled up (from 0.22 to 3.83 mmol with an increase of the addition rate of PhMgBr from 1.04 to 11.47 mmol·h⁻¹), affording 3h and 3i in a 60:40 ratio (determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture) and isolated in 33% and 22% yields, respectively, after purification by silica gel column chromatography.¹⁵

As the oxazolidin-2-ones offer the opportunity to access amino alcohols, 3i was treated with NaOH (in refluxing EtOH, 16 h) to afford 4 in 76% yield (Scheme 2). Compound 4 was transformed to its crystalline ammonium chloride salt, and the absolute configuration of the carbon substituted by the hydroxyl was determined by X-ray diffraction analysis. This analysis confirmed at the same time the absolute configuration of the C5 stereogenic center of the oxazolidin-2-one 3i. It is worth noting that the amino alcohol 4 can be utilized to synthesize various heterocycles.¹⁶

Bicyclo- and spiro-heterocycles containing an oxazolidin-2-one core appear to be interesting compounds as they can be precursors of azasugars¹⁷ as well as natural products^{6,18} and/or

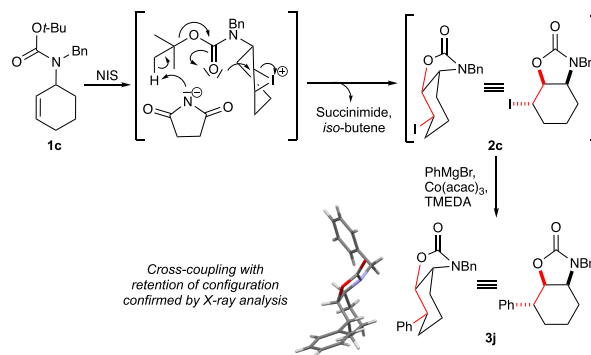
Scheme 2. Oxazolidin-2-one Ring-Opening: From *N*-Benzyl-5-benzylloxazolidin-2-one 3i to Amino Alcohol 4



bioactive compounds.^{5,18,19} Thus, by reacting *N*-Boc-*N*-benzyl-cyclohex-2-ene-1-amine 1c, (*S*)-*N*-Boc-2-vinylpyrrolidine 1d, and *N*-Boc-2-vinylpiperidine 1e with PhMgBr under the optimized reaction conditions, the corresponding bicyclic compounds 3j, 3k, and 3l were isolated in 64% yield (dr = 96:4), 51% yield (dr = 90:10), and 61% yield (dr = 65:35), respectively (Table 3, entries 1–3). In addition, the unsaturated *N*-Boc substrate 1f afforded the spirocyclic compound 3m, albeit in low yield (11%) but with a good dr of 95:5 (Table 3, entry 4).

The relative configuration of the stereogenic centers of the bicyclic oxazolidin-2-one 3j was confirmed by X-ray diffraction analysis. To explain the formation of 3j, we can envisage that, after the formation of the iodonium ion intermediate, an *anti* attack of the *tert*-butyl carbamate group on the iodonium implies than the C–O and C–I bonds are in a *trans* relationship, leading to the iodine intermediate 2c. Thereafter, the cross-coupling of 2c with PhMgBr, catalyzed by Co(acac)₃/TMEDA, was achieved and a new C–C bond was created, leading the bicyclic compound 3j with the phenyl group in an equatorial position (Scheme 3).

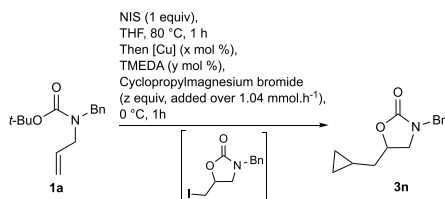
Scheme 3. Rationalization of the Configuration of the Major Diastereomer of 3j through the Iodo Cyclization/Cross-Coupling Sequence



As a compound has a better chance to be on the market by “escaping from flatland”,²⁰ the replacement of an aryl group at the C5' position of the oxazolidin-2-ones by an aryl bioisostere, such as cyclopropane, has been envisaged. Thus, *N*-Boc-*N*-benzylallylamine 1a was treated, under the previously optimized reaction conditions, with cyclopropylmagnesium bromide. However, the use of Co(acac)₃, as well as other cobalt or iron salts was not effective as 3n was not formed (see Table S3). Due to this failure, the use of copper salts was explored to realize the coupling between the iodo-oxazolidin-2-one 2a, intermediately formed, and cyclopropylmagnesium bromide (1.2 equiv, rate of addition ν = 1.04 mmol·h⁻¹, 0 °C, 1 h) (Table 4). Different copper salts were screened such as Li₂CuCl₄ (10 mol %) and CuCl₂ (10 mol %); however, these catalysts did not produce the desired oxazolidin-2-one 3n (Table 4, entries 1 and 2). On the contrary, when CuI (10 mol %) was utilized, the oxazolidin-2-one 3n was formed in 31% yield (¹H NMR yield) (Table 4, entry 3). Increasing the excess of cyclopropylmagnesium bromide from 1.2 to 3 equiv led to 3n in 53% yield (¹H NMR yield) (Table 4, entry 4). Adding TMEDA (40 mol %) to the reaction mixture allowed the full conversion of 2a to 3n which was obtained in 64% yield (¹H NMR yield) (Table 4, entry 5). Decreasing the catalytic loading of CuI from 10 to 5 mol % in the presence of TMEDA

(40 mol %) afforded **3n**, which was isolated in 66% yield (Table 4, entry 6). It is worth mentioning that the catalytic loading of CuI can be decreased from 5 to 2.5 mol % in the presence of TMEDA (40 mol %) as **3n** was obtained in a similar yield (64%, ¹H NMR yield) (Table 4, entry 7).

Table 4. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions for the Cross-Coupling in a One-Pot Sequence to Access Oxazolidin-2-one **3n from *N*-Boc-*N*-Benzylallylamine **1a** Using Cyclopropylmagnesium Bromide**



entry	[Cu] (x mol %)	TMEDA (y mol %)	cyclopropylmagnesium bromide (z equiv)	3n ^a (%)
1	Li ₂ CuCl ₄ (10)	none	1.2	none
2	CuCl ₂ (10)	none	1.2	traces
3	CuI (10)	none	1.2	31
4	CuI (10)	none	3	53
5	CuI (10)	40	3	64
6	CuI (5)	40	3	66 ^b
7	CuI (2.5)	40	3	64

^a¹H NMR yield determined by using 1,3-dimethoxybenzene as internal standard. ^bIsolated yield.

In summary, we developed a one-pot sequence of reactions involving an iodo-cyclization/cross-coupling to produce a diversity of C5-functionalized oxazolidin-2-ones from simple *N*-Boc-allyl amines. For the cross-coupling, depending on the aryl or cyclopropyl Grignard reagents involved in the process, Co or Cu salts have to be used for the success of the coupling. Moreover, this sequence of reactions allowed the access to bicyclo- and spiro-heterocycles with good diastereoselectivities and 1,2-amino alcohols can be obtained by simple ring-opening of the oxazolidin-2-ones. This scalable one-pot two-step sequence appears to be a useful tool and paves the way for promising Csp³–Csp² and Csp³–Csp³ cross-couplings, catalyzed by earth-abundant transition metals, to access functionalized heterocycles.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.orglett.0c01114>.

Experimental procedures and spectral data for all compounds (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 1991426–1991427 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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