

Palladium-Catalyzed Synthesis of *N*-Aryl- and *N*-Heteroaryl-aza-crown Ethers via Cross-Coupling Reactions of Aryl- and Heteroaryl Bromides with Aza-crown Ethers

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Abstract: Palladium(0)-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of electron deficient aryl- and heteroaryl bromides with aza-crown ethers of various ring sizes are described. The catalyst system Pd(OAc)₂/PPh₃ gave best results for cross coupling reactions of macrocyclic aza-crown ethers with electron poor aryl bromides.

Key words: crown ether, palladium, cross-coupling reaction, amination reaction, bipyridyl, macrocycles, supramolecular chemistry.

Macrocyclic ionophores based on aza-crown ether derivatives have attracted much attention because of their application as building blocks for artificial transmembrane ion channels, carrier systems for ion and molecule transport, supramolecular catalysts, and molecular elements for supramolecular assemblies.¹ Especially *N*-aryl-aza-crown ethers with defined ring sizes have been combined with photo- or redoxactive subunits and were recognized frequently as metal cation selective sensors.²

However in terms of efficiency and flexibility most syntheses of *N*-aryl-aza-crown ethers are not satisfying: either high dilution conditions often providing a low yielding ring closure of the crown ether moiety,³ or high pressure conditions (>8 kbar) for achieving a S_NAr reaction between the corresponding amine and an activated aryl halide are necessary.⁴ Concerning strategy and synthesis the direct attachment of commercially or easily available aza-crown ethers to various aromatic components via a cross coupling reaction promises to be the most straightforward approach towards *N*-aryl- and *N*-heteroaryl-aza-crown ethers. Furthermore, such a strategy should ensure a high flexibility with respect to the ring size of the crown ether subunit, and the allowance for a multifold attachment of more than one aza-crown ether component to an aromatic core.⁵

We report here a new and efficient synthesis of *N*-aryl- and *N*-heteroaryl-crown ethers from aryl- or heteroaryl bromides and aza-crown ethers based on a Pd(0)-mediated cross coupling reaction inducing a carbon-nitrogen bond formation. This strategy follows our recent report on the synthesis of *N*-(9-anthryl) aza-18-crown-6, a novel chromo- and fluoroionophore.⁶

The intensive studies of Buchwald, Hartwig, and others on Pd(0)-catalyzed aryl aminations⁷ have lead to a protocol that effects the coupling of primary and secondary

Table 1 Influence of the ligand and the ring size of the aza-crown ether **2** on the Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of **1** with **2**.

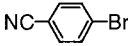
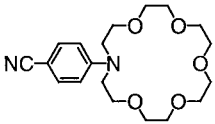
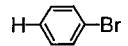
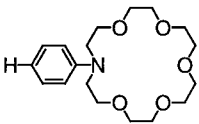
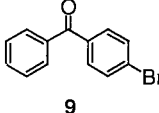
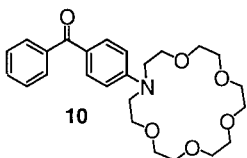
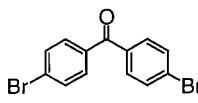
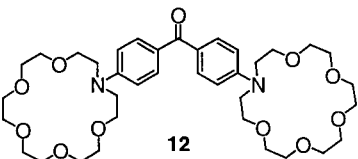
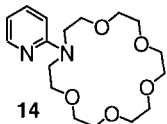
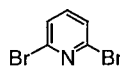
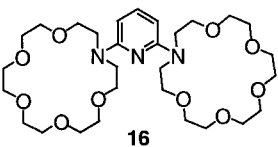
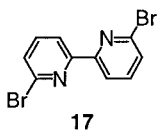
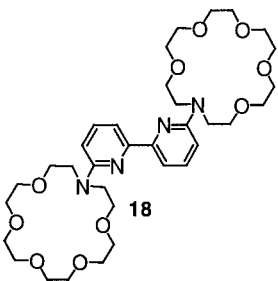
Entry	2	n	Product	Ligand ^{b)} L	Yield [%] ^{c)}
1	2a	5		P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃ P ^t Bu ₃ PPh ₃	60 13 84
2	2b	4		P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃ PPh ₃	43 88
3	2c	3		P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	80
4	2d	1		P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃ PPh ₃	83 81

a) Reaction conditions: Pd-cat. (3 mol%), ligand **L** and yields see Table 1, 1.2 eq. **2**, 1.3 eq. NaO^tBu, 100 °C, 12h, toluene, reaction carried out in a Schlenk tube with screw cap. b) Pd : **L** = 1 : 2, Pd(dba)₂ was used in combination with P(*o*-tol)₃ and Pd(OAc)₂ in combination with PPh₃ and P^tBu₃; c) yield of isolated product.¹¹

amines with aryl bromides and chlorides. Whereas initially a Pd(0)/P(*o*-tol)₃ catalyst was used, more recently second generation catalysts based on chelating phosphine ligands have been proven to be superior in many cases.⁸ Nevertheless, limitations towards sterically crowded amines were observed, and Pd-catalyzed aryl aminations have neither been studied with macrocyclic amines, nor with aza-crown ethers so far.

At the outset of our studies we investigated the influence of the steric properties of different monodentate phosphine ligands on the Pd(0)-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction between the electronically activated 4-nitro-bromobenzene (**1**, 1 equiv) and aza-[18]-crown-6 (**2a**, 1.2 eq.) in the presence of NaO^t-Bu (1.3 equiv) in toluene as solvent at 100 °C (Table 1). The catalyst combinations of

Table 2 Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of bromobenzenes and bromopyridines with aza-18-crown-6 (**2a**).^{a), 11}

Entry	Arylbromide	Product	t [h]	Ligand ^{b)}	Yield [%] ^{c)}
1	 5	 6	48	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	20
			48	PPh ₃	57
2	 7	 8	48	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	0
			48	PPh ₃	0
3	 9	 10	24	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	55
			24	PPh ₃	87
4	 11	 12	48	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	28 ^{d)}
			48	PPh ₃	73 ^{e)}
5	 13	 14	24	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	86
			24	PPh ₃	89
6	 15	 16	24	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	81 ^{f), g)}
7 ^{h)}	 17	 18	24	PPh ₃	98

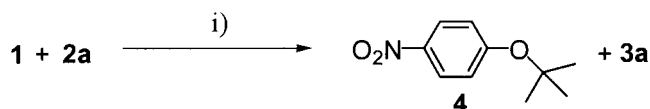
a) reaction conditions: toluene, 100 °C, 1.2 eq. **2a** and 1.3 eq. NaO^tBu per bromine functionality, Pd(OAc)₂ or Pd(dba)₂ was used as Pd source with 3 mol% Pd-salt per bromine functionality; b) Pd : ligand = 1 : 2, Pd(dba)₂ was used in combination with P(*o*-tol)₃ and Pd(OAc)₂ in combination with PPh₃; c) yield of isolated products; d) crown ether **10** (50%) was formed as major product; e) crown ether **10** (25%) was formed as side product; f) crown ether **14** (10%) was formed as side product, g) PPh₃ as ligand was not investigated for this case; h) bipyridyl **17** was synthesized as described in ref. 21).

Pd(dba)₂, or Pd(OAc)₂ with P(*o*-tol)₃ and P(*t*-Bu)₃ respectively, gave only moderate to low yields of cross-coupling product **3a**. Whereas **3a** was obtained in 84% yield with the sterically small ligand PPh₃ and Pd(OAc)₂ (entry 1 in Table 1).^{9, 10} Omitting the Pd-catalyst did not yield any product under otherwise identical reaction conditions.

Next, the interplay between the steric demand of the phosphine ligands P(*o*-tol)₃ and PPh₃,¹² and the bulkiness of

the (macro)cyclic amine **2** was investigated. Cross-coupling reactions of **1** with macrocyclic amines (**2a** and **2b**), as well as with amines of medium ring sizes (**2c** and **2d**) could be achieved with both catalysts. However the catalyst based on the sterically smaller ligand PPh₃ gave significantly better results with the macrocyclic amines **2a** and **2b** (entry 1 and 2, Table 1). No difference in reactivity between a catalyst based on PPh₃ and P(*o*-tol)₃ was found in the arylamination of **1** with morpholine (**2d**) (entry 4,

Table 1), indicating that the bulkiness of the aza-crown ethers contribute to the observed differences in reactivity. The catalyst system based on the bidentate ligand BINAP also led to the *N*-aryl-aza-crown ether **3a**, albeit in a diminished yield of 36% (Scheme 1). Surprisingly the phenol ether **4** was found as major product in 40% yield,¹³ whereas this alkoxidation product was not observed with the catalysts based on the ligands PPh₃ and P(*o*-tol)₃. Since the alkoxide ion is less nucleophilic than the amine **2a** this result is remarkable.



Scheme 1 Catalyst and reaction conditions: i) Pd₂(dba)₃ (2 mol%), BINAP (6 mol%), 1.2 eq. **2a**, 1.3 eq. NaO^tBu, 100 °C, 12h, toluene, reaction carried out in a Schlenk tube with screw cap, **4** (40%), **3a** (36%).

Scope and limitations of this new *N*-aryl-aza-crown ether synthesis were further demonstrated by the results given in Table 2, where commercially available aza-18-crown-6 (**2a**) was used as coupling partner.¹⁴ The protocol could be extended to the synthesis of cyanobenzene **6**, benzophenone **10**,¹⁵ and pyridine **14**^{16,17} with high efficiency. In all cases investigated, the use of the catalyst system based on PPh₃ gave consistently better results. The twofold cross-coupling reactions of aza-crown ether **2a** with the aryl bromides **11**, **15**, and **17** proceeded with high yields to give the crown ether **12**,¹⁴ **16**,¹⁸ and **18**¹⁹ in 73%, 81%, and 98%, respectively. In the cases of **11** and **15** the mono-aminated products **10** and **14**, resulting from a β -hydride-elimination-reduction sequence of a Pd-imido intermediate,²⁰ could be isolated as side products respectively (entry 4 and 6, Table 2). However, the protocol is limited to electron deficient arenes and heteroarenes: a cross-coupling reaction between bromobenzene (**7**) and aza-18-crown-6 (**2a**) could not be achieved, neither with a Pd-catalyst based on PPh₃, nor with one based on P(*o*-tol)₃ (entry 2, Table 2).

Inasmuch that the reductive elimination of a Pd-imido-complex is accelerated when electron poor aryl species are involved,²⁰ and these electronic effects obviously support cross-coupling reaction with sterically encumbered and therefore less reactive amines, the results obtained here suggest furthermore, that the right interplay between the bulkiness of the macrocyclic amine paired with the reduced steric demand of the phosphine ligand PPh₃ is necessary for an efficient and high yielding *N*-aryl-aza-crown ether formation.

In conclusion, we have developed a protocol for the synthesis of *N*-aryl- and *N*-heteroaryl-aza crown ethers based on Pd-catalyzed cross coupling reactions of electron deficient aryl bromides with aza-crown ethers of various ring sizes. However, the working catalyst system Pd(OAc)₂/PPh₃ is limited to its use with electron poor aryl bromides.

Molecule and cation binding studies and the application of these new macrocyclic ligands for the synthesis of novel chromo- and fluoroionophores are currently under investigation.

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- (13) The same catalyst yielded **4** in 95% in the absence of an amine, whereas omitting the catalyst did not yield any **4**. Mixtures of aryl amines and aryl ethers were also found with other electron poor aryl bromides and BINAP as ligand indicating that reductive eliminations of Pd-alkoxide intermediates can compete with reductive eliminations of Pd-imido intermediates when electron poor aryl bromides are involved. (B. Witulski, S. Senft, A. Thum, unpublished results). For Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of aryl bromides with alkoxides see: Mann, G.; Incarvito, C.; Rheingold, A. L.; Hartwig, J. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, 121, 3224. Palucki, M.; Wolfe, J. P.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, 118, 10333.
- (14) **Typical procedure:** In a Schlenk tube with screw cap were introduced under argon 4,4'-dibromobenzophenone (**11**) (340 mg, 1 mmol), carefully dried aza-18-crown-6 (**2a**) (640 mg, 2.4 mmol), NaOtBu (250 mg, 2.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (14 mg, 0.06 mmol), PPh₃ (32 mg, 0.12 mmol), and toluene (10 ml). The sealed tube was kept at 100 °C for 2 days. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and filtered through a plug of celite. After evaporation of the solvent the organic residue was chromatographed. Column chromatography (Al₂O₃, AcOEt with 0.5% MeOH) gave **10** (115 mg, 0.26 mmol) [25%] as minor product and **12** (516 mg, 0.73 mmol) [73%] as major product.
- 12:** colorless oil, R_f: 0.3 (Al₂O₃-TLC, AcOEt/MeOH = 95.5:0.5 (v/v)); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.73 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4 H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4 H), 3.69 (m, 32 H), 3.72 (m, 16 H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS) δ = 193.5 (s), 150.6 (s), 132.3 (d), 126.1 (s), 110.3 (d), 70.8 (t), 70.7 (t), 70.75 (t), 68.4 (t), 51.3 (t); MS (EI, 70 eV) m/z (%): 704 (100, M⁺), 486 (15), 372 (10), 232 (45); C₃₇H₅₆N₂O₁₁ (704.86) calc.: 704.3884; found: 704.3884.
- (15) **10:** colorless oil, R_f: 0.3 (Al₂O₃-TLC, hexanes/AcOEt = 4:6 (v/v)); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.52 ("t", J ≈ 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.5–3.7 (m, 24 H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS) δ = 194.9 (s), 151.4 (s), 139.2 (s), 132.9 (d), 131.1 (d), 129.4 (d), 127.0 (d), 124.7 (s), 110.4 (d), 70.8 (t), 70.76 (t), 70.74 (t), 70.61 (t), 68.4 (t); C₂₅H₃₃NO₆ (443.54) calc.: C 67.70, H 7.50, N 3.16; found: C 67.29, H 7.51, N 3.10.
- (16) **14:** colorless oil, R_f: 0.5 (Al₂O₃-TLC, hexanes/AcOEt = 1:1 (v/v)); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.10 (ddd, J = 5.0 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (ddd, J = 8.7 Hz, J = 7.0 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.56 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.50 (ddd, J = 7.0 Hz, J = 5.0 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.64–3.79 (m, 24 H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS) δ = 157.8 (s), 147.8 (d), 137.0 (d), 111.3 (d), 105.7 (d), 70.8 (t), 70.7 (t), 70.65 (t), 70.6 (t), 69.2 (t); C₁₇H₂₈N₂O₅ (340.42) calc.: C 59.98, H 8.29, N 8.23; found: C 59.63, H 8.16, N 8.02.
- (17) For cross coupling reactions of **13** with morpholine (**2d**) and allyl amines see: Wagaw, S.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, 61, 7240. Jaime-Figueroa, S.; Liu, Y.; Muchowski, J. M.; Putman, D. G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, 39, 1313.
- (18) **16:** colorless oil; R_f: 0.25 (Al₂O₃-TLC, hexanes/AcOEt = 3:7 (v/v)); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.22 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.62–3.70 (m, 48 H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS) δ = 156.6 (s), 138.5 (d), 92.5 (d), 70.8 (t), 70.75 (t), 70.7 (t), 70.6 (t), 69.5 (t), 49.5 (t); C₂₉H₅₁N₃O₁₀ (601.74) calc.: C 57.89, H 8.54, N 6.98; found: C 57.85, H 8.55, N 6.81.
- (19) **18:** colorless needles (CHCl₃/pentane); m.p. 86–87 °C; R_f: 0.25 (Al₂O₃-TLC, hexanes/AcOEt = 1:9 (v/v)); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.58 ("d", J ≈ 7 Hz, 2 H), 7.50 ("t", J ≈ 8 Hz, 2 H); 6.55 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 3.67–3.86 (m, 48 H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS) δ = 156.9 (s), 154.7 (s), 137.7 (d), 108.5 (d), 105.4 (d), 70.8 (t), 70.75 (t), 70.70 (t), 70.6 (t), 69.2 (t), 49.6 (t); C₃₄H₅₄N₄O₁₀ (678.82) calc.: C 60.16, H 8.02, N 8.25; found: C 60.11, H 7.89, N 8.14.
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