Heteroaryl Ethers by Oxidative Palladium Catalysis of Pyridotriazol-1-yloxy Pyrimidines with Arylboronic Acids

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Received March 25, 2009

ABSTRACT



The oxidative palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling of pyrimidines containing pyridotriazol-1-yloxy (OPt) as either a urea or an amide functional group with arylboronic acids in the presence of Cs₂CO₃ in DME containing 0.6–1.0% H₂O is described for the preparation of heteroaryl ethers. The bromo substitution in the case of 3-(5-bromo-pyrimidin-2-yloxy)-3*H*-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-*b*]pyridine 1 could serve as a handle for further elaborations such as Suzuki coupling for attaching varied aryl groups.

Aryl ethers are an important class of biologically active compounds.¹ Recent synthetic methods that avoid the use of harsh conditions and result in better control over the classical methods have been reported. These methods include Mitsunobu reactions using immobilized triphenylphosphine for ease of purification,^{1,2} reaction of aryl fluorides and silyl ethers,³ and Ullman-type coupling reactions using CuI and [(dimethylamino)methyl]phosphonic acid derivatives.⁴ These also include a variety of metal-mediated transformations involving Rh(I)-catalyzed [2 + 2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions,⁵ Pd(0)-catalyzed enyne-diyne [4 + 2] cycloadditions,⁶

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Buchwald–Hartwig Pd-mediated couplings,⁷ and Pd-catalyzed Heck reactions.⁸

Recently, we demonstrated the synthetic versatility of phosphonium-mediated S_NAr reactions with heterocycles⁹ using benzotriazole-1-yl-oxy-tris(dimethylamino)-phosphonium (BOP)¹⁰ or (7-azabenzotriazol-1-yloxy)tripyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (PyAOP)¹¹ reagents. Phosphonium intermediates of pyrimidines could also be intercepted as partners in Suzuki cross-coupling reactions, resulting in the formation of C–C bonds.^{10c} In the S_NAr reactions involving BOP reagents, mechanistic studies regarding the nature of the intermediates are consistent with a pathway involving stepwise formation of HOBt adducts from the

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phosphonium intermediates.^{9,12} Indeed, benzotriazol-yloxy quinazoline readily reacted with various nucleophiles in S_NAr fashion. Further investigations led to the discovery of an oxidative palladium-catalyzed S_NAr reaction of pyridotriazol-yloxy quinazoline (*O*Pt) adducts involving arylboronic acids and dioxygen under Pd catalysis without direct involvement of phenols.¹³ This reaction is especially valuable when phenols are not readily available and is distinct compared to the homocoupling reactions in oxidative palladium reactions.

In this letter, we report that pyrimidines carrying an OPt functional group¹² (Figure 1) are good substrates for the



Figure 1. Oxidative Pd(0) reaction on representative cyclic OPt heterocycles.

oxidative Pd-catalyzed reaction resulting in the synthesis of heteroaryl ethers from pyridotriazol-l-yloxy pyrimidines, arylboronic acids, and dioxygen.

Optimization studies were initially performed on 3-(5bromo-pyrimidin-2-yloxy)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-*b*]pyridine **1** with phenylboronic acid by evaluating various metals, ligands, solvents, and bases. The desired 2-phenoxy-5bromopyrimidine product **2a** (Table 1) was observed without the detection of 2-phenyl-5-bromopyrimidine as the Suzuki cross-coupling product.

Table 1. Optimization Conditions of 3-(5-Bromo-pyrimidin-2-yloxy)-3*H*-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-*b*]pyridine 1 Coupling with Phenylboronic Acids



1	Cs_2CO_3	DME	UHP	18
2	Cs_2CO_3	DME	$H_2O_2\;(10\%)^b$	0^c
3	No Base	DME	O_2	0
4	Cs_2CO_3	DME	N_2	35^d
5	Cs_2CO_3	DME	O_2	25
6	$\mathrm{Cs}_2\mathrm{CO}_3$	$DME{-}H_2O~(0.8\%)$	O_2	62

 a Isolated yields. b 30% w/w H₂O₂ c **2a** was not observed. Instead a polar and unidentified compound was formed. d Slightly wet batch of Cs₂CO₃ used.

As in the case with quinazoline OPt,¹³ Pd(PPh₃)₄ in DME proved to be advantageous over Pd(OAc)₂. Further screening of base effects identified Cs₂CO₃ and Na₂CO₃ as suitable bases for this transformation. With Cs₂CO₃ as the base of choice, dioxygen proved to be the best oxidant in comparison to H₂O₂¹⁴ or anhydrous urea hydrogen peroxide (UHP) (Table 1). The presence of water 0.6–1.0% in DME was necessary to achieve good yields of **2a**. The *O*Bt analogue of **1** is also a good substrate for this transformation, although heteroaryl ethers are formed at a slower reaction rate.

Arylboronic acids containing diverse functional groups underwent transformation to heteroaryl ethers 2a-l readily under mild conditions (Scheme 1). The presence of a



thiomethyl moiety in **2b** did not result in any complications due to potential sulfoxide or sulfone formation. The electronic and steric effects were evaluated using three arylboronic acids carrying acetyl, carbomethoxy, and methoxy substituents at the o, m, and p positions. Boronic acids with electronic withdrawing (acetyl, carbomethoxy) and donating groups (methoxy) gave moderate to excellent yields of isolated heteroaryl ethers 2d-i and 2j-i, respectively. It is unclear why the yield of 2d is low especially in comparison to 2g and 2j, and this does not suggest electronic reasons since the latter compounds were formed in good yields.

Boronic acids derived from a variety of heterocycles produce heteroaryl ethers under the oxidative palladium coupling conditions (Scheme 2). In the case of 3d no



protection of the nitrogen moiety is required. A limitation of the scope of this reaction was realized with boronic acids containing a heteroatom in the α position as the reaction was too slow to form the desired product in a synthetically useful manner. The use of excess arylboronic acids is necessary to compensate for the homocoupling products under the oxidative Pd(0) reaction conditions.¹⁵

The choice of the 5-bromo substituent in **1** was deliberately made to evaluate the chemo- and regioselectivity of an oxidative Pd coupling reaction at C2 with a possible Suzukitype reaction at C5. In all cases reported (in Scheme 1), Suzuki coupling at the C5 position was not observed. This observation leaves the opportunity to exploit further chemistry by using the 5-bromo group as a chemical handle. Toward this end, a few 5-aryl pyrimidines were synthesized through Suzuki coupling as shown in Scheme 3. Heteroaryl ethers such as **21** readily underwent cross-coupling reactions with a variety of arylboronic acids to provide the desired products using the Buchwald ligand DTBBP (Scheme 3) under Pd(II) catalysis.¹⁶

Pyrimidine bases are important biologically. Therefore, extension of this transformation to 4-(3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-*b*]-pyridine-3-yloxy)-1-methylpyrimidin-2(1*H*)-one **5** was attempted since this heterocycle has an N3 substituent different from that of **1** or the quinazoline analogue in both basicity and electronic factors. The oxidative palladium reaction followed by an S_NAr reaction, indeed, proceeded very well with **5** producing excellent isolated yields of heteroaryl ethers **6a**-**d** (Scheme 4). The excellent yields derived from





(a) Distilled over calcium hydride and stored over 4 Å Molecular Sieves. (b) Unoptimized Yields.

pyrimidines 1 and 5 demonstrate good potential and broaden the scope for an effective *O*-arylation reaction (Schemes 1





and 4). Consistent with our earlier findings on the lack of reactivity of the 5-bromo moiety in 1,¹³ the 2-chloro moiety in **6c** did not cause any complications. In conclusion, the expanded scope of the oxidative palladium coupling reactions of heterocyclic *O*Pt derivatives¹⁷ with arylboronic acids

provides an efficient synthesis of heteroaryl ethers of biologically important pyrimidine heterocycles. This transformation amounts to the S_NAr reaction¹² of phenols with the *O*Pt heterocycles but offers the advantage of not using phenols when they are not readily available or are unstable. Additionally, the reaction conditions are mild and apply to *O*Pt derivatives of amides and ureas. The formation of heteroaryl ethers by this method complements earlier reports

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on the potential of using stable *O*Pt adducts of heterocycles in novel synthetic transformations. Mechanistic studies likely involving the formation^{13,18} of $(\eta^2-O_2)Pd(PPh_3)_2$ and its reaction with aryl boronic acids are under investigation and will be reported elsewhere.¹⁹

Acknowledgment. The authors wish to thank Elwira Muszynska and Murthy Damarla of Wyeth Research for purification of 2j.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and spectral data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

OL900592B

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