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Amino-Supported Solid Palladium Catalyst for Chemo- and Stereoselective Domino Reactions

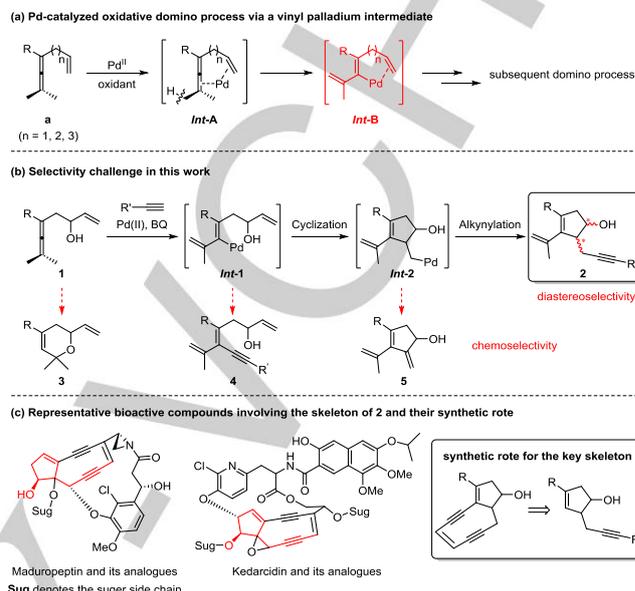
Man-Bo Li,^{*,†} Jie Yang,[†] Ying Yang, Guo-Yong Xu, Gen Luo, Jianping Yang, and Jan-E. Bäckvall*

Abstract: An amino-supported solid palladium-catalyzed oxidative domino reaction has been developed for the diastereoselective construction of alkyne-substituted cyclopentenol compounds. This heterogeneous catalyst exhibits high efficiency and excellent chemoselectivity, as well as good recyclability. The chemoselectivity of the domino reactions was readily controlled by switching the solvent and catalyst. Asymmetric syntheses and an oxidative carbocyclization-borylation reaction have also been developed based on the heterogeneous Pd-catalyzed domino strategy.

A domino reaction constitutes an efficient approach in organic synthesis involving multiple bond formation, as it produces the target molecule in one pot with high atom and step economy.^[1-6] However, the achievement of high selectivity in a domino reaction is always challenging, considering the possible side reactions during each bond-forming step.^[3-6] During recent years, our group has been involved in Pd-catalyzed oxidative domino processes for the construction of complex molecules from enallenes (Scheme 1a).^[7-12] The key feature of these processes is the generation of a vinyl-palladium intermediate (*Int-B*) triggered by an allene attack on palladium via a C(sp³)-H bond cleavage (*Int-A*).^[7] The diverse reactivity of *Int-B* allows flexible domino processes, while at the same time significant selectivity challenges are involved in these reactions.

In the present work, we have designed a Pd-catalyzed oxidative domino route to enynes **2** with a cyclopentenol unit (Scheme 1b). This skeleton is a key substructure^[13-18] and synthon^[19] of many bioactive compounds. Representative examples include maduropeptin,^[14,15,18] kedarcidin^[13,16,17] and their analogues (Scheme 1c). *In vivo* studies have shown these molecules to be extremely active against leukemia and melanoma by binding and cleaving duplex DNA at selected sites.^[13-15] Concerning the construction of this important skeleton, the synthetic route in Scheme 1b would be a highly efficient approach. However, considering the possible side reactions of each palladium intermediate and the newly formed chiral centers during the domino process, chemo- and stereoselective formation of **2** would be challenging.

Our initial attempt began with the reaction of **1a** and phenylacetylene in the presence of 5 mol% of Pd(OAc)₂ and 1.1 equiv. of benzoquinone (BQ) in DCE at room



Scheme 1. Proposed domino process, selectivity challenge, and representative bioactive compounds.

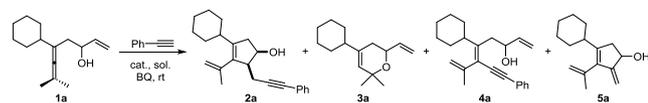
temperature (Table 1). To our delight, the target product **2a** was obtained in 10% yield as the *cis*-diastereomer with high diastereoselectivity (>20:1 d.r.). However, the chemoselectivity was not satisfactory, and **5a** generated from β -H elimination of *Int-2* was obtained as the major product in 69% yield (Table 1, entry 1). To improve the chemoselectivity of the domino reaction for producing **2a**, attempts were made to optimize the reaction conditions. Replacement of Pd(OAc)₂ by other homogeneous palladium sources did not give any better results, and by using Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂, only non-oxidized product **3a** was obtained, which is generated from Pd-catalyzed intramolecular oxypalladation^[20,21] (Table 1, entry 3). Compound **5a** was the dominant product in most of the solvents (Table 1, entries 4-8), and was obtained as the sole product in 90% yield in CHCl₃. Intriguingly, by using CH₃CN as the solvent, **4a** was obtained as the major product in 85% yield (Table 1, entry 8). This result could be explained by the interaction between CH₃CN and Pd(II), which inhibits the Pd-catalyzed olefin insertion step.^[22] Under the homogeneous reaction conditions, **2a** was always the minor product. We then turned our attention to a solid catalyst where palladium is immobilized on amino-functionalized siliceous mesocellular foam^[23,24] (Pd-AmP-MCF). By using this catalyst, our group has successfully realized the oxidative transformations of allenes with high activity and selectivity.^[25-28] Surprisingly, highly improved selectivity for **2a** was observed when the catalyst was switched to Pd-AmP-MCF, and **2a** was now obtained in 44% yield (Table 1, entry 9). In our previous work the addition of catalytic amount of AgOTf dramatically improved the activity of this heterogeneous palladium catalyst in oxidative carbonylation of allene amides.^[28] However, addition of AgOTf in the present reaction resulted in the sole production of **3a** (Table 1, entry 10).^[29] Finally, after screening other additives, we

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were delighted to find that addition of Et₃N is favorable for switching the selectivity of the reaction towards **2a**. Thus, the use of 0.1 equiv. of Et₃N afforded **2a** in 84% yield (Table 1, entry 11). Notably, the solid palladium catalyst loading can be reduced to 1 mol%, producing **2a** in 83% yield (Table 1, entry 12). A similar solid palladium catalyst immobilized on renewable amino-functionalized crystalline nanocellulose foam^[28] (Pd-AmP-CNC) also showed high activity and selectivity for the formation of **2a** (Table 1, entry 13).

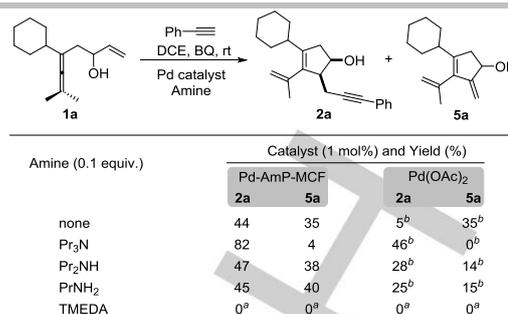


Entry	Cat. (5 mol%)	Sol.	Yield (%) ^b			
			2a	3a	4a	5a
1	Pd(OAc) ₂	DCE	10	-	12	69
2	Pd(TFA) ₂	DCE	-	22	10	60
3	Pd(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl ₂	DCE	-	89	-	-
4	Pd(OAc) ₂	THF	5	-	20	71
5	Pd(OAc) ₂	Toluene	-	-	20	74
6	Pd(OAc)₂	CHCl₃	-	-	-	90
7	Pd(OAc) ₂	Acetone	-	10	25	54
8	Pd(OAc)₂	CH₃CN	-	-	85	3
9	Pd-AmP-MCF	DCE	44	-	5	35
10 ^e	Pd-AmP-MCF	DCE	-	94	-	-
11 ^d	Pd-AmP-MCF	DCE	84	-	-	4
12 ^{de}	Pd-AmP-MCF	DCE	83	-	-	4
13 ^{de}	Pd-AmP-CNC	DCE	80	-	-	6

^aUnless otherwise noted, the reaction was carried out by using 0.2 mmol of **1a**, 0.25 mmol of phenylacetylene, 5 mol% of catalyst, 1.1 equiv. of BQ and 1.0 mL of solvent at room temperature for 12 h. ^bDetermined by NMR using anisole as the internal standard. ^c5 mol% of AgOTf was added. ^d0.1 equiv. of Et₃N was added. ^e1 mol% of catalyst was used, 8 h.

Table 1. Optimization of the reaction conditions.^a

For in-depth understanding of the origin of the high activity and chemoselectivity in the heterogeneous palladium-catalyzed domino process for the formation of **2**, control experiments were conducted by using 1 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF or Pd(OAc)₂ with different amine additives (Table 2).^[30] Some interesting results were observed and the following conclusions were made: 1) Under both heterogeneous and homogeneous reaction conditions, tertiary, secondary, and primary amines improved the selectivity for **2a**,^[31] and tertiary amines dramatically increased the yield of **2a** in the reaction. Diamine completely shut down the reaction, probably due to the strong coordination of diamine to Pd(II), which inhibits the catalytic activity of the solid palladium catalyst. These results indicate that amine coordinates to Pd(II) and affects its catalytic activity and selectivity,^[32-34] and tertiary, secondary and primary amines are positive for improving the selectivity for **2a** by suppressing the β-H elimination or promoting the alkyne ligand exchange of **Int-2**.^[35,36] 2) Under homogeneous reaction conditions, the starting material was always partially recovered and considerable amounts of Pd black was observed after the completion of the reaction (Figure 1a and b, inset). XPS Pd3d analysis of the reaction mixture showed that the proportion of Pd(II) was much lower than that of Pd(0) (Figure 1a and b). In contrast, under the heterogeneous reaction conditions, Pd(II) was still dominant after the reaction (Figure 1c and d).^[37] These results demonstrate that the porous amino support (AmP-MCF) protects Pd species from aggregating to Pd black, and in this way the activity of Pd-AmP-MCF was maintained during the catalytic cycle. The partial recovery of starting material under the homogeneous reaction conditions



Amine (0.1 equiv.)	Catalyst (1 mol%) and Yield (%)			
	Pd-AmP-MCF		Pd(OAc) ₂	
	2a	5a	2a	5a
none	44	35	5 ^b	35 ^b
Pr ₃ N	82	4	46 ^b	0 ^b
Pr ₂ NH	47	38	28 ^b	14 ^b
PrNH ₂	45	40	25 ^b	15 ^b
TMEDA	0 ^a	0 ^a	0 ^a	0 ^a

Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), phenylacetylene (0.25 mmol), Pd catalyst (1 mol%), amine additive (0.1 equiv.), BQ (1.1 equiv.), DCE (1.0 mL), 8 h. ^a**1a** was recovered in >90% yield. ^b**1a** was partially recovered.

Table 2. Amine effect under homogeneous and heterogeneous conditions.

can be explained by the deactivation of active Pd(II) to Pd black. As a result, Pd-AmP-MCF exhibited much higher activity and chemoselectivity than the homogeneous Pd catalyst, which is credited to the interaction between its porous amino support and Pd(II) (Figure 1e).

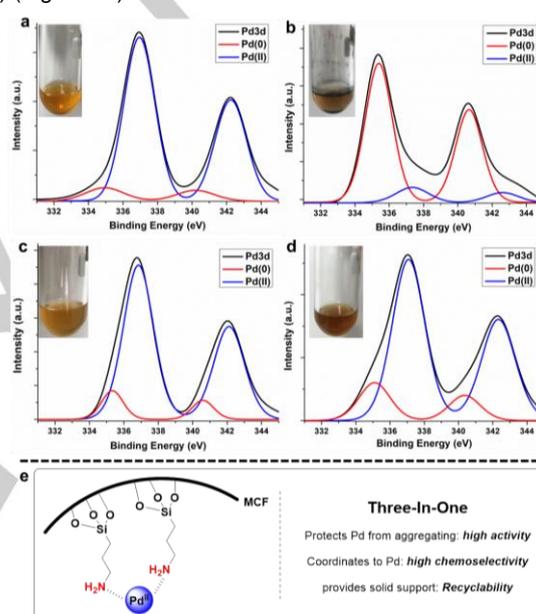
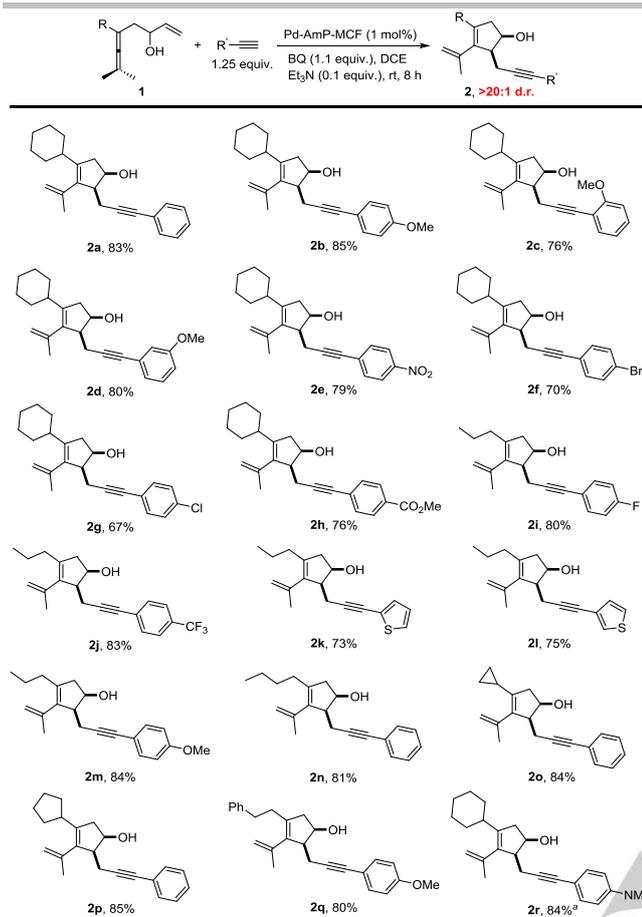


Figure 1. XPS Pd3d spectra of the reaction mixture by using Pd(OAc)₂ (a: before reaction; b: after reaction) or Pd-AmP-MCF (c: before reaction; d: after reaction) as the catalyst. Inset: Photos of the reaction mixture. e) An illustration of the heterogeneous catalyst and its three-in-one role.

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, we investigated the substrate scope (Scheme 2). Aromatic and heteroaromatic terminal alkynes all worked well with enallene **1** to give **2** in high yields (**2a-l**). Arylalkynes with electron-withdrawing groups or electron-donating groups at para-, ortho-, or meta-positions worked equally well with enallene **1**, affording **2** in good yields (**2b-j**). Functional groups such as MeO, O₂N, F, Cl, Br, F₃C and MeO₂C were well tolerated under the standard reaction conditions. Aliphatic terminal alkynes reacted with enallene **1**, giving **5** as the major products, probably due to the unfavorable alkylation between aliphatic alkynes and **Int-2** (Scheme 1b). Different substituents including cyclohexyl (**2a**), cyclopentyl (**2p**), cyclopropyl (**2o**), propyl (**2m**), butyl (**2n**) and phenylethyl (**2q**) at the R position of enallenes **1** worked well to give products **2** in >80% yields.^[38] Interestingly, the addition of Et₃N was not necessary when a tertiary amine was introduced in the substrate (**2r**). Notably, Pd-AmP-MCF-catalyzed the oxidative domino process with high efficiency and diastereoselectivity. For all of the substrates, only 1 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF was used and products **2** were obtained in >20:1 d.r.

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Scheme 2. Substrate scope for the synthesis of **2**. ^aWithout Et₃N

Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES) analysis after the reaction indicates that there was no detectable amount of Pd in the reaction solution (< 0.1 ppm). A hot filtration test^[39] showed that no active Pd species were leached out from the solid catalyst during the reaction. These results rule out a Pd leaching during or after reaction, suggesting a heterogeneous pathway. Recycling experiments and kinetic studies (Figure 2) reveal that the solid Pd catalyst is recoverable, and its activity is essentially maintained between the first and the seventh cycles, which demonstrates that Pd-AmP-MCF is robust and highly active for the Pd-catalyzed oxidative domino process. However, We cannot exclude the possibility that the solid catalyst might lose its activity slowly after the long run of the reaction.^[40]

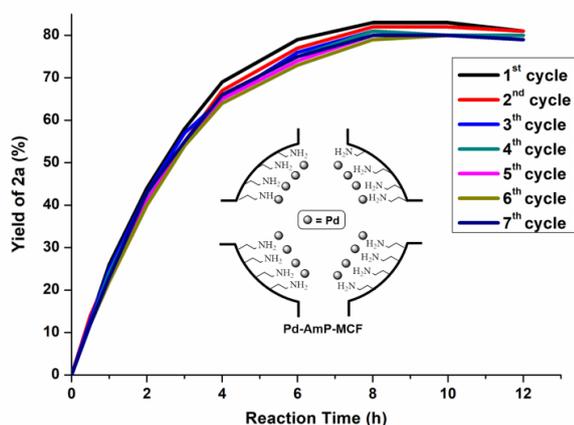
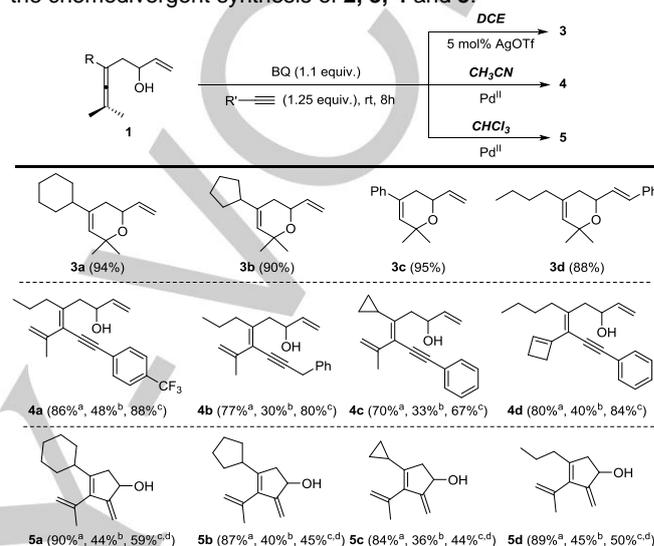


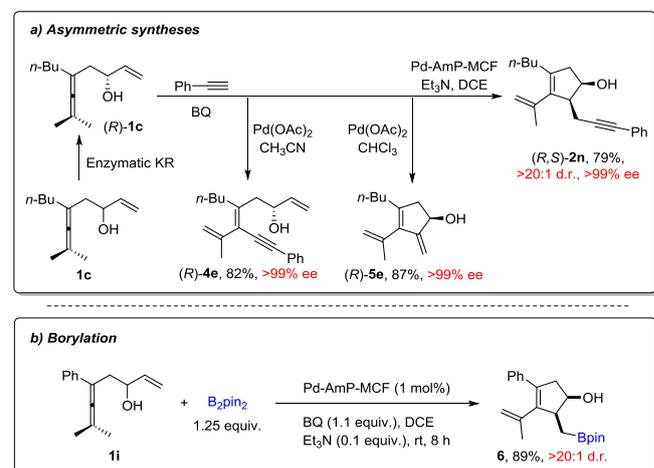
Figure 2. recycling experiments and kinetic studies.

By readily switching the reaction conditions, using AgOTf or Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%) as the catalyst, DCE, CH₃CN or CHCl₃ as the solvent, the chemoselectivity of the reaction is simply controlled to give **3**, **4** or **5** as the final products in excellent yields (Scheme 3). Notably, Pd-AmP-MCF showed much higher efficiency than Pd(OAc)₂, and 1 mol% of Pd(OAc)₂ resulted in partially recovery of the starting materials. The solvent effect was also extended to the solid catalyst in CH₃CN, however, in CHCl₃, Pd-AmP-MCF catalyzed the reaction, giving the mixture of **2** and **5** as the products.^[41] This catalyst/solvent-controlled selective domino process provides an efficient pathway towards the chemodivergent synthesis of **2**, **3**, **4** and **5**.



Scheme 3. Chemodivergent syntheses of **3**, **4** and **5**. ^a5 mol% of Pd(OAc)₂. ^b1 mol% of Pd(OAc)₂, starting materials were partially recovered. ^c1 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. ^d> 90% conversion, **2** was obtained as the byproducts.

Enantiomerically pure enallene (*R*)-**1**, readily obtained from kinetic resolution of **1** with *Candida Antarctica* lipase B (CaLB),^[42] was selectively transformed to optically pure (>99% ee) products **2**, **4** or **5** in high yields by simply adjusting the solvent or catalytic system of the reaction (Scheme 4a). During the domino process, no loss of optical purity was observed, despite the possible racemization pathway of the allylic alcohol moiety of allene (*R*)-**1** in the presence of palladium. Under the standard heterogeneous reaction conditions, by replacing the alkyne reaction partner with bis(pinacolato)diboron (B₂pin₂), an oxidative carbocyclization-borylation domino process was developed to give cyclopentenol boron compound **6** in high yield and high diastereoselectivity (Scheme 4b).

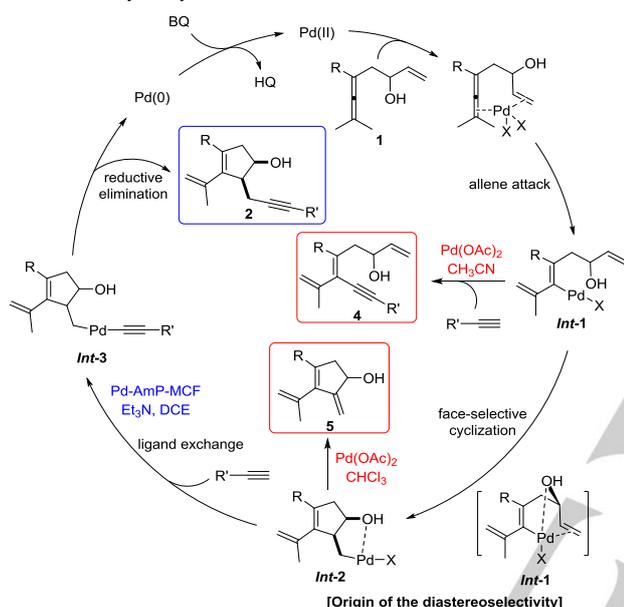


Scheme 4. Applications of the solid palladium catalyzed domino process.

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Based on the experimental results and our previous work on Pd-catalyzed oxidative transformations of allene derivatives,^[7-12,25-28] we propose the mechanism shown in Scheme 5 for the Pd-catalyzed domino reactions. Initially, simultaneous coordination of the olefin group and the allene unit of enallenol **1** to Pd(II) would trigger the allene attack to generate *Int-1*, which would react with terminal alkyne to give product **4** in CH₃CN, or undergo a face-selective olefin insertion to generate *Int-2* with hydroxyl group and Pd on the same side.^[11] Under homogeneous reaction conditions (Pd(OAc)₂, CHCl₃), a subsequent β-H elimination of *Int-2* would produce **5**, while under heterogeneous reaction conditions (Pd-AmP-MCF, Et₃N, DCE), *Int-2* prefers to react with alkyne producing **2** via *Int-3*. The Pd(0) would be reoxidized by BQ to generate active Pd(II) to initiate the next catalytic cycle.



Scheme 5. Proposed mechanism.

In conclusion, we have developed an amino-supported solid Pd-catalyzed domino reaction for the diastereoselective construction of cyclopentenols with an alkynyl group, which are key substructures and synthons of many bioactive compounds. This heterogeneous catalyst exhibited high activity and selectivity, as well as good recyclability. It was demonstrated that the amino support interacts with Pd, on the one hand improving the chemoselectivity of the heterogeneous palladium catalyst, and on the other hand contributing to high palladium activity in the domino reaction by protecting Pd species from aggregating to Pd black. The chemoselectivity of the domino reactions was readily controlled by switching the catalyst or solvent, which allows chemodivergent syntheses of **2**, **4** and **5** in excellent yields. The domino strategy developed was also extended to the asymmetric syntheses as well as oxidative carbocyclization-borylation reactions. It is expected that our work will stimulate more research on the development of heterogeneous catalytic system for highly active and selective transformations.

Acknowledgements

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Natural Science Foundation of China (21501182, 2065011802) is gratefully acknowledged.

Keywords: solid palladium catalyst • amino support • chemoselective domino reactions • diastereoselectivity

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- [29] Based on control experiments, AgOTf catalyzed the cyclization of enallenol **1** to give **3** without the addition of Pd catalyst. The corresponding results are shown in Scheme 3. For AgOTf catalyzed-cyclization of enallenols, see: a) J. A. Marshall, M. A. Wolf, E. M. Wallace, *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, *62*, 367-371; b) S. Ma, Z. Shi, *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 6387-6389.
- [30] For more control experiments on the amine effect, see Supporting Information, p. S2.
- [31] Under the heterogeneous reaction conditions, there was no significant difference in the yield of **2a** by using secondary, primary, or no amine as

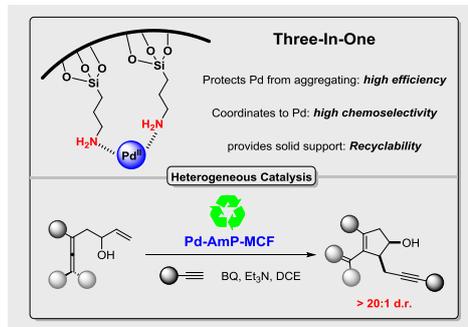
- the additive. This result is reasonable, because the Pd(II) in Pd-AmP-MCF is already coordinated by primary amine (see ref. 23), and Pd-AmP-MCF catalyzed the domino reaction to give **2a** in moderate yield.
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- [37] Pd(II) was still dominant after the seventh run, and the XPS spectra of Pd-AmP-MCF after run 1 and run 7 showed similar Pd^{II}/Pd⁰ ratio. For details, see Supporting Information, p. S 21.
- [38] The reaction of aromatic R substituted enallenol **1i** (R = Ph) with the terminal alkyne resulted in a messy mixture by TLC and ¹H NMR. We conclude that the electronic effect of aromatic R group might affect the reactivity of enallenol **1** under the reaction conditions.
- [39] For details on hot filtration test, see Supporting Information, p. S20.
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- [41] The interaction between CDCl₃ and the solid palladium catalyst is weak, and Pd(II) in Pd-AmP-MCF is coordinated by primary amine, which might partially switch the selectivity of the domino reaction to give **2** as the byproduct in CDCl₃. The ratios of product **5** : product **2** in **5a**, **5b**, **5c** and **5d** are 59 : 40, 45 : 40, 44 : 42, and 50 : 38, respectively.
- [42] For the preparation of enantiomerically pure enallene **1**, see Supporting Information, P. S21.

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Layout 1:

COMMUNICATION

An amino-supported solid Pd-catalyzed oxidative domino reaction is developed here for the construction of alkyne-substituted cyclopentenol compounds. The three-in-one property of the heterogeneous catalyst contributes to its high efficiency and excellent chemoselectivity, as well as good recyclability.



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Amino-Supported Solid Palladium Catalyst for Chemo- and Stereoselective Domino Reactions