

Synthesis of 1(2*H*)-Isoquinolones by the Nickel-Catalyzed Denitrogenative Alkyne Insertion of 1,2,3-Benzotriazin-4(3*H*)-ones

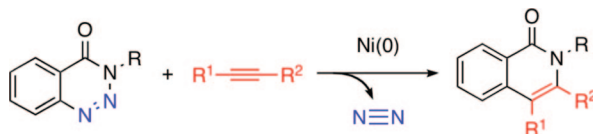
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Received May 10, 2008

ABSTRACT



1,2,3-Benzotriazin-4(3*H*)-ones reacted with internal and terminal alkynes in the presence of a nickel(0)/phosphine catalyst to give a wide range of substituted 1(2*H*)-isoquinolones in high yield. The reaction proceeded through denitrogenative activation of the triazinone moiety and the following insertion of alkynes.

The 1(2*H*)-isoquinolone ring system is one of the basic units often found in the structures of plant alkaloids¹ and pharmacologically valuable compounds.² Therefore, the development of efficient methods for their synthesis is of great importance.³ Whereas transition-metal-based catalysis has often been utilized for the synthesis of various heterocyclic compounds,⁴ only limited examples applicable to the synthesis of 1(2*H*)-isoquinolones have appeared.⁵ On the other hand, a rhodium-catalyzed extrusion reaction of a molecular dinitrogen from pyridotriazoles was utilized for construction of a new heterocyclic system by Gevorgyan and

co-workers.⁶ We report herein a nickel-catalyzed denitrogenative alkyne insertion reaction of 1,2,3-benzotriazin-4(3*H*)-ones, which presents a new synthetic approach to substituted 1(2*H*)-isoquinolones.

1,2,3-Benzotriazin-4(3*H*)-ones can be readily prepared from anthranilic acid derivatives.⁷ Initially, the possibility to activate the triazinone moiety was examined using nickel(0)/phosphine complexes;⁸ 3-phenyl-1,2,3-benzotriazin-4(3*H*)-one (**1a**, 1.0 equiv) was treated with dec-5-yne (**2a**, 1.1 equiv) in the presence of a nickel(0) catalyst generated

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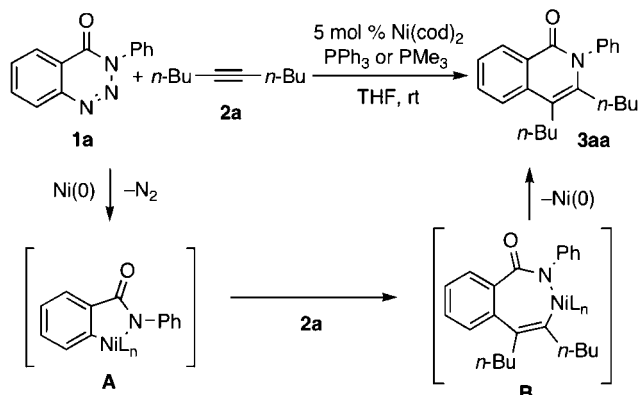
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Scheme 1



in situ from $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$ (5 mol %, cod = cycloocta-1,5-diene) and PPh_3 (20 mol %) at room temperature in THF. The substrate **1a** was consumed in 10 h, and subsequent chromatographic isolation on silica gel afforded 3,4-dibutyl-2-phenyl-1(2*H*)-isoquinolone (**3aa**) in 91% yield (Scheme 1). Substitution of PMe_3 (10 mol %) for PPh_3 resulted in a faster reaction, which was completed in 3 h affording **3aa** in 93% isolated yield. We assume that the reaction is initiated by insertion of nickel(0) into the N–N linkage of **1a**, which prompts extrusion of a molecular dinitrogen giving azanickelacycle **A**.^{5f,9} Subsequent insertion of the alkyne into the nickel–carbon bond leads to the seven-membered-ring nickelacycle **B**.¹⁰ Finally, reductive elimination affords **3aa**, regenerating the nickel(0) catalyst.

The effect of the substituent on the nitrogen of the benzotriazinone was examined (Table 1). Whereas both

Table 1. Ni(0)-Catalyzed Alkyne Insertion: Scope of Substituent on Nitrogen **1**^a

entry	1 (R)	3	T (°C)	yield ^b (%)
1	1b (4-MeC ₆ H ₄)	3ba	rt	98
2	1c (4-MeOC ₆ H ₄)	3ca	rt	95
3	1d (4-CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄)	3da	rt	99
4	1e (Bn)	3ea	60	96 ^c
5	1f (Me)	3fa	80	95 ^d
6	1g (H)	3ga	100	0 ^d

^a Conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.22 mmol), $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$ (10 μmol , 5 mol %), and PPh_3 (40 μmol , 20 mol %) in THF (1 mL) for 12 h unless otherwise noted. ^b Isolated yield. ^c PMe_3 (20 μmol , 10 mol %). ^d PMe_3 (20 μmol , 10 mol %) in toluene (1 mL).

electron-donating and -accepting aryl-substituted substrates underwent the denitrogenative insertion reaction in a similar way at room temperature (entries 1–3), the reaction of

benzyl- and methyl-substituted benzotriazinones **1e** and **1f** required heating at higher temperatures (entries 4 and 5). On the other hand, simple unprotected benzotriazinone **1g** failed to react with **2a** even at 100 °C (entry 6).¹¹

Various internal alkynes **2** were subjected to the denitrogenative insertion reaction with benzotriazinones **1a** and **1b** (Table 2). Symmetrical internal alkynes such as diphenyl-

Table 2. Ni(0)-Catalyzed Insertion of Internal Alkyne **2**^a

entry	1	2 (R ¹ , R ²)	3	yield (%) ^b
1	1a	2b (Ph, Ph)	3ab	98
2	1a	2c (CH ₂ OBn, CH ₂ OBn)	3ac	94
3	1b	2d (Me, Ph)	3bd	99 (86:14)
4	1b	2e (Me, <i>p</i> -CF ₃ C ₆ H ₄)	3be	99 (73:27)
5	1b	2f (Me, <i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄)	3bf	99 (89:11)
6	1b	2g (<i>i</i> -Pr, Me)	3bg	97 (58:42)
7	1b	2h (<i>n</i> -Pr, CO ₂ Et)	3bh	99 (92:8) ^c
8	1b	2i (<i>n</i> -Bu, Bpin)	3bi	93 (98:2) ^{d,e}
9	1b	2j (TMS, Bpin)	3bj	94 (99:1) ^e

^a Conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.22 mmol), $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$ (10 μmol , 5 mol %), and PMe_3 (20 μmol , 10 mol %) in THF (1 mL) at rt for 3–12 h under N₂ unless otherwise noted. ^b Combined yield of regioisomers unless otherwise noted. Numbers in parentheses describe the regioselectivity. ^c **2** (0.4 mmol) and PPh_3 (40 μmol , 20 mol %) at 60 °C. ^d Isolated yield of the major regioisomer. ^e 60 °C.

ethyne (**2b**) and 1,4-dibenzyloxybut-2-yne (**2c**) reacted with **1a** to give **3ab** and **3ac** in 98 and 94% yields, respectively (entries 1 and 2). With unsymmetrical internal alkynes, the regioselectivity of the insertion reaction was examined wherein 3-tolyl-1,2,3-benzotriazin-4(3*H*)-one (**1b**) was used in order to assign the regiochemistry of the products by NOE experiments.¹² 1-Phenylprop-1-yne (**2d**) reacted smoothly with **1b** to provide **3bd** in 99% yield in a fairly regioselective fashion (86:14, entry 3). In the major product, the phenyl group is bound to C(3) next to nitrogen.¹³ The regioselectivity was enhanced by the presence of electron-donating

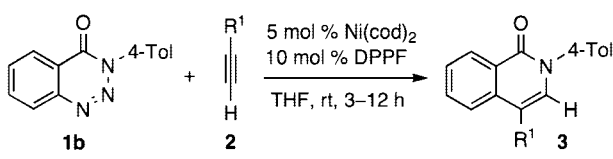
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(10) For a previous example of alkyne insertion into a related seven-membered ring nickelacycle intermediate, see: Korivi, R. P.; Cheng, C.-H. *Org. Lett.* **2005**, *7*, 5179. The authors assumed that a carbon–carbon triple bond can insert into both carbon–nickel and nitrogen–nickel linkages depending on alkynes. The regiochemistry observed in the present reaction using ethyl hex-2-ynoate (**2h**) suggests that a carbon–nickel linkage react with **2h**. In the reaction of other alkynes such as terminal alkynes, however, insertion into a nitrogen–nickel linkage cannot be ruled out.

(11) The benzotriazinone **1g** was recovered.

(12) See the Supporting Information for details.

(13) Although a similar regiochemical preference was explained by assuming stabilization of a partial negative charge on the carbon α to nickel in ref 9b, the effect of the aryl substituent observed with the present reaction is inconsistent with this explanation. Further studies including a theoretical one are necessary for elucidation of the mechanistic and regiochemical issue.

Table 3. Ni(0)-Catalyzed Insertion of Terminal Alkyne **2**^a


entry	2 (R ¹)	3	yield ^b (%)
1	2k (<i>n</i> -Hex)	3bk	98 (73:27) ^c
2	2k (<i>n</i> -Hex)	3bk	99 (98:2)
3	2l (<i>c</i> -Pent)	3bl	98 (99:1)
4	2m (<i>t</i> -Bu)	3bm	99 (>99:1) ^e
5	2n (TMS)	3bn	94 (99:1) ^{d,e}
6	2o (<i>n</i> -Bu ₃ Sn)	3bo	92 (99:1) ^{d,f}

^a Conditions: **1b** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.22 mmol), Ni(cod)₂ (10 μmol, 5 mol %), and DPPF (20 μmol, 10 mol %) in THF (1 mL) at rt for 3–12 h under N₂ unless otherwise noted. ^b Combined yield of regioisomers unless otherwise noted. Numbers in parentheses describe the regioselectivity. ^c PMe₃ (20 μmol, 10 mol %). ^d Isolated yield of the major regioisomer. ^e 60 °C. ^f Ni(cod)₂ (20 μmol, 10 mol %) and DPPF (40 μmol, 20 mol %) at 60 °C. DPPF = 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene.

groups at the para position of the aryl group (entries 4 and 5). In the case of alkynoate **2h**, the regiochemistry of the major isomer was consistent with the electronic demand expected in the carbometallation step (i.e., A → B), although an excess amount of **2h** and the use of PPh₃ were required to get a high yield (entry 7).¹⁴ The high regioselectivity observed with boryl-substituted alkynes¹⁵ can also be understood on similar electronic grounds, which assume stabilization of a partial negative charge on the carbon α to boron by the electron-accepting character of boron (entries 8 and 9).¹⁶

We then examined the reaction of terminal alkynes with **1b** (Table 3). Although oct-1-yne (**2k**) is capable of undergoing a self-oligomerization reaction, it instead reacted via the insertion reaction giving **3bk** in 98% yield with the Ni(0)/PMe₃ catalyst (entry 1). However, the regioselectivity was modest (73:27). Several phosphine ligands of nickel(0) were tested to improve the selectivity in this case. To our delight, the bidentate phosphine ligand, 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (DPPF), afforded very high regioselectivity (98:2, entry 2).^{17,18} This catalyst system proved to be general, catalyzing the insertion reaction of other terminal alkynes **2l–2o** with similarly high regioselectivity giving the

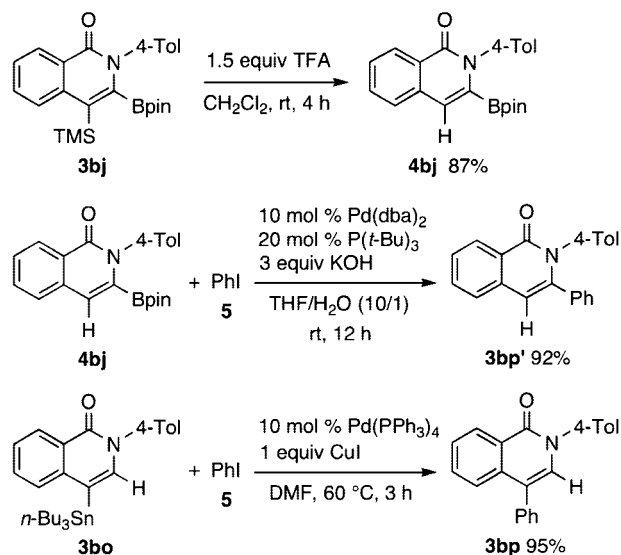
(14) The major undesired process under the standard conditions using PMe₃ was self-oligomerization of **2h**.

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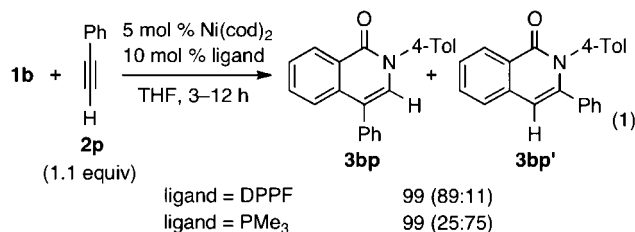
(16) For a similar stabilization by a silyl substituent, see: Buchwald, S. L.; Nielsen, R. B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 2870.

(17) Representative results (regioisomers ratio) with other phosphine ligands: PMe₂Ph (75:25), PMePh₂ (87:13), P(*n*-Bu)₃ (85:15), DPPPen (92:8), DPEphos (88:12), XANTPHOS (93:7).

(18) The reaction of internal alkynes was retarded when dppf was used in place of PMe₃ as the ligand. For example, the reaction of 1-phenylprop-1-yne using dppf required heating at 80 °C in toluene, giving inferior regioselectivity of 65:35.

Scheme 2

corresponding products **3bl–3bo** in yields ranging from 92% to 99% (entries 3–6). In the case of phenylethyne (**2p**), however, different regioisomers were preferentially obtained depending on the ligand employed, although the selectivity was modest (eq 1).

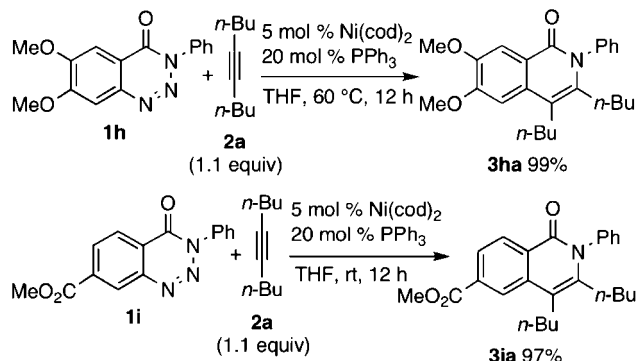


However, employing the densely functionalized products **3bj** and **3bo**, it was possible to prepare both isomers, **3bp** and **3bp'**, with high regioselectivity (Scheme 2). Starting with compound **3bj**, the silyl group was selectively removed by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) at room temperature, giving 3-boryl-1(2*H*)-isoquinolone **4bj** in 87% yield. A subsequent palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction of **4bj** with iodobenzene (**5**) afforded 3-phenyl-1(2*H*)-isoquinolone **3bp'** (92% yield). On the other hand, an analogous cross-coupling reaction performed directly on the stannyl-substituted **3bo** with **5** furnished the other regioisomer, 4-phenyl-1(2*H*)-isoquinolone **3bp** in 95% yield. Thus, **4bj** and **3bo** provide synthetic platforms for the preparation of a wide variety of 3- and 4-substituted 1(2*H*)-isoquinolone.

Finally, we examined the reaction of functionalized triazinones **1h** and **1i** with **2a** (Scheme 3). Methoxy ether and ester functionalities were tolerated on the aryl group of **1**.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated a facile approach for the preparation of substituted 1(2*H*)-isoquinolones. A wide variety of alkyne substrates including borylalkynes were

Scheme 3



regioselectively incorporated into 1,2,3-benzotriazin-4(3H)-ones with loss of a dinitrogen molecule. Further investigation

into the reaction mechanism and synthetic applications are underway.

Acknowledgment. We thank Mr. H. Fujita (Kyoto University) for his assistance in the structural determination by NMR. This work was supported in part by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (No. 19205013) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. M.Y. acknowledges the financial support by the Global COE Program “Integrated Materials Science” (No. B-09).

Supporting Information Available: Experimental details and spectra data for new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

OL8010826