Sonogashira Cross-Couplings of Ynamides. Syntheses of Urethane- and Sulfonamide-Terminated Conjugated Phenylacetylenic Systems

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ABSTRACT



The first successful Sonogashira coupling of ynamides with aryl and vinyl iodides is described here. This study resolves the problem of the competing pathway involving homocoupling of ynamides and provides a practical entry to novel urethane- or sulfonamide-terminated conjugated acetylenic systems. An interesting tandem hydrohalogenation and Sonogashira coupling was also observed to give an en-ynamide.

Ynamides have become useful synthons in organic synthesis.^{1,2} Our efforts³ have led to the development of a Cu-catalyzed *N*-alkynylation as a practical synthesis of ynamides $3.^4$ These endeavors⁵ have provided access to terminally unsubstituted ynamides 4, thereby allowing various explorations of functionalization of this unique terminal acetylenic carbon. Thus far, the only uncovered reactivities

have involved additions of electrophiles such as MeI to the lithiated ynamide **4** reported by our group^{4b} and addition of BuBr reported by Witulski²ⁱ and, recently, a Glaser-type coupling reported by Saá.^{2a} We recognized that a potentially more important reaction would be the utility of ynamides **4** in transition metal-mediated cross-coupling reactions such as Sonogashira coupling,^{6,7} which has not been reported,

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except two independent documentations of unsuccessful attempts.^{2c,8} As an alternative, Saá⁸ did report recently the use of zinc sulfonamido-acetylides, generated in situ from β,β' -dichloro-enamides, in Negishi-type couplings. However, the Sonogashira protocol still represents the most efficient and straightforward cross-couplings of any terminal alkynes.^{6,7} These cross-coupling reactions should lead to the preparation of conjugated systems⁹ such as 7 and 8 that can be useful in developing new materials given the significance of conjugated rigid rods molecular electronics9,10 and self-assembly.11-13 In addition, although the copper-catalyzed amidation of alkynyl iodides^{4,5} is a viable approach for constructing these ynamides, a successful Sonogashira coupling would provide not only a complimentary protocol but also, more importantly, an entry that is more versatile and practical when one intends to design and synthesize a library of ynamides that

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differ only in the C-terminal substituents. We report here findings using ynamides **4** in Sonogashira couplings as an approach to conjugated phenylacetylenic systems.

The feasibility of Sonogashira coupling was readily established as shown in Scheme 2. We did not observe here homocoupling of ynamide **9**, which is an urethane-based ynamide, as reported in the literature for sulfonyl-substituted ynamides.^{2c,8} The coupling reaction of ynamide **9** with iodobenzene using 10 mol % of Pd(Ph₃P)₄ and 7 mol % of CuI in *i*-Pr₂NH/toluene (2:1) at room temperature led to the formation of the desired phenyl-substituted ynamide **10**¹⁴ in 93% yield (Scheme 2). Although both CuCN and CuI appear to be feasible for the Sonogashira coupling, as expected, iodobenzene coupled much faster than bromobenzene.¹⁵

The generality of this Sonogashira coupling with various aryl iodides is displayed in Table 1. The main features are

Table 1.

entry	coupling prod	ucts ^a	copper	temp	yield ^b
1	0 0	10: R = H	CuCN ^c	rt	20% ^c
2 (p√ į∕=∖	10: R = H	CuCN	rt	57
3		10: R = H	<i>vs</i> . Cul	rt	[93] ^d
4	Ph B	11: R = Me	CuCN	rt	64
5	-{-{ - }-{ - }-OMe	12	CuCN	rt	65
6	\$	12	<i>vs</i> . CuI	rt	54
7	3	13	CuCN ^c	rt	18 ^c
8		13	<i>vs</i> . CuI	rt	92
	$\langle \rangle$				
9	_{_{_{_{_{}}}}}	14	CuCN	rt	59
10	-\$	14	<i>vs</i> . CuI	rt	20
	(\)				
11	_§ <i>n</i> -Bu	15	CuI ^e	rt	58 ^e

^{*a*} Reactions were carried out using 10 mol % Pd(Ph₃P)₄ and 7 mol % copper salt in *i*-Pr₂NH/toluene (2:1) except for entries 1 and 7. ^{*b*} Isolated yields. ^{*c*} In entries 1 and 7, 10 mol % PdCl₂(Ph₃P)₂ was used. ^{*d*} The same result as in Scheme 2. ^{*e*} 1-Bromo-1-hexyne was used.

as follows: (1) $PdCl_2(Ph_3P)_2$ was less effective in catalyzing these couplings than $Pd(Ph_3P)_4$ (respectively, entry 1 versus entries 2 and 3 (or see Scheme 2), and entries 7 versus 8), and thus only $Pd(Ph_3P)_4$ was used throughout this study. (2)

 $[\]left(14\right)$ Relevant procedures for new compounds and their characterizations are in Supporting Information.



CuCN and CuI did not always provide comparable outcome (entries 2 versus 3, entries 5 versus 6, and entries 9 versus 10), and we are not exactly sure as to the reason for this inconsistency. In addition, a cross-Glaser-type coupling¹⁶ could be readily achieved using 1-bromo-1-hexyne (entry 11).

More interestingly, when using an *ortho*-substituted aryl iodide such as *o*-iodo-anisole, the rate of coupling was slowed, requiring the reaction temperature to be raised to afford the desired product **16** (Scheme 3). We obtained an X-ray structure of ynamide **16** (Figure 1), which represents



Figure 1.

the first crystal structure obtained for an ynamide.¹⁷ Although the desired coupling product **16** was isolated in 46% yield using CuI, we also found 20% of en-ynamide **17**, which was found to be the major product when using CuCN.



We suspected that en-ynamide **17** was derived from the Sonogashira coupling of ynamide **9** with α -iodo-enamide **18**, which was likely a result of addition of HI to **9** on the basis of what we had previously observed in the formation of α -iodo-enamides via hydrohalogenation of ynamides using metal halides.^{3c,4a} Because CuI was shown not to give any hydrohalogenation products,^{3c} we further suspected that it could be the presence of untrapped HI, produced in the coupling reaction.

However, when measures were taken to reduce HI by using Et₃N as solvent, en-ynamide **17** was found as the sole product, or when Hünig's base was used as solvent or as a cosolvent with THF (1:1), **16** and **17** were isolated with a 1:1 ratio. Further experiments also suggest that alkylammonium iodide salts do not hydrohalogenate ynamides to the corresponding α -iodo-enamide. These preliminary findings imply that palladium associated intermediates might be involved in the process of either yielding **18** or going directly to **17**. We are currently further examining this issue.

Having established this Sonogashira coupling protocol, we turned our attention to sulfonyl-substituted ynamides, and consequently, we encountered similar difficulties as those reported in the literature^{2c,8} using sulfonyl-substituted ynamide **19** as shown in Scheme 4. The same protocol (see Method A), used in coupling of ynamide **9**, was not useful for **19**, leading to phenyl-substituted ynamide **20** in only 20% yield with the major product being the homocoupling (or a Glaser-type coupling) of **19**.^{2a,c,8}

Fortuitously, only a minor tweaking to the conditions was necessary (see Method B). The addition of the copper catalyst was carried out after premixing ynamide **19** and iodobenzene with the palladium catalyst, although at a much reduced amount at 1.5 mol % (the range was 0.3-1.5 mol %) instead of the original 7 mol %, and the temperature was also raised to 65 °C.¹⁵ These minor changes in the reaction conditions led to **20** in 60% yield with the homocoupling pathway being mostly suppressed.

⁽¹⁵⁾ **Typical Procedure, Method A.** See the Supporting Information. **Typical Procedure, Method B.** To a reaction flask were added 428.0 mg of ynamide **19** (1.5 mmol), 497.0 mg of ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (1.8 mmol), 86.0 mg of Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.075 mmol, 5 mol %), 8 mL of TEA, and 4 mL of toluene. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 10 min, and 4.3 mg of CuI (1.5 mol %) was then added. After heating the reaction mixture at 60 °C for 2 h, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc, filtered through Celite, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting crude residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (gradient 10% to 20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 473.0 mg (73% yield) of aryl ynamide **22**.

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⁽¹⁷⁾ The X-ray structure reveals that there is a slight bend along the acetylenic axis (N1–C10–C11–C12). More interestingly, the two planes of the *o*-methoxyphenyl ring and the oxazolidinone ring have an approximate dihedral angle of \sim 79.9°, which is almost orthogonal as shown in the ChemDraw reproduction.

Table 2.

entry	products ^a		R ¹ =	R ²	yield ^b		
1		21	4-NO ₂ -Ph		78		
2	Bn SO _o Tol	22	4-EtO ₂ C-Ph		73		
3	N N	23	2-furyl		59 ^c		
4	.l.	24	2-thiophene		82		
5		25	2-pyridyl		44 ^c		
6	T.	26	3-pyridyl		81		
7	R ¹	27	trans-CH=CH-n-	Bu	42 ^d		
8		28	<i>trans</i> -CH=CH- <i>n</i> -hex		31 ^d		
	R^1 $_{SO_2}R^2$						
9	Ň –	29	Bn	Me	77		
10	du –	30	Bn	4-anisyl	96		
11	Щ	31	(-)-α-Phenethyl	Ph	85		
A <i>r</i> A <i>r</i> = 4-NO ₂ -Ph							

 a All reactions employed Method B. b Isolated yields. c The reaction was run at room temperature. d 15 mol % CuI was used, and reaction was run at room temperature.

The minor tweaking of the reaction conditions to render the Sonogashira coupling feasible is noteworthy. Although König^{2c} did not comment on specific conditions in their Sonogashira attempts, Saá⁸ reported that under similar conditions (PdCl₂(Ph₃P)₂ was used), the Sonogashira coupling of the sulfonyl ynamide (they used Ts(**Ph**)NC=CH) led to complex mixture with homocoupling as the major pathway. We used ynamide **19** with a **Bn** substituent on the nitrogen atom because we had speculated that it could be a substituent effect, and in addition, we avoided PdCl₂(Ph₃P)₂ since Pd-(Ph₃P)₄ was better a catalyst in our study. However, the fact that we encountered the same outcome suggests that it was likely not due to the difference in substituents or the nature of Pd catalysts.

Therefore, a successful Sonogashira coupling of sulfonyl ynamide **19** was achieved by effectively delaying the addition of the copper catalyst, which implies that there is an order of the event. It can be suggested that this delay avoids a quick buildup of the copper-acetylide species, which can be funneled toward the homocoupling pathway. Concomitantly, having a sufficient amount of presence of the oxidative-addition intermediate derived from iodobenzene and Pd- $(Ph_3P)_4$ prior to the addition of the copper-acetylide species.¹⁸

This new protocol (Method B) proved to be general for preparations of various aryl-substituted sulfonyl ynamides (Table 2). Most notably in Table 2, we were able to construct a series of heteroaryl-substituted ynamides 23-26 (entries 3-6) and succeeded in coupling 19 with vinyl iodides, providing en-ynamides 27 and 28 (entries 7 and 8) in



moderate yields, albeit 15 mol % of CuI was needed. Vinyl bromide again was very slow and did not couple well.

Finally, to take measures toward establishing the concept of constructing an extended conjugated phenylacetylenic system that terminates with an amide group, we prepared aryl iodide **32** (Scheme 5),¹⁹ and its coupling with ynamide **19** led to the isolation of TMS-capped acetylene **33** in 44% yield with about 80% conversion. Subsequent desilylation using K₂CO₃ and MeOH and a second Sonogashira coupling of the resulting ynamide **34** with *p*-nitro-iodobenzene gave the conjugated phenylacetylene **35** in 80% yield.

We have described here the first successful Sonogashira coupling of ynamides with aryl and vinyl iodides. Our coupling protocol circumvents the problem of competing homocoupling of ynamides and provides a practical entry to novel urethane- and sulfonamide-terminated conjugated acetylenic systems. Applications of this method in preparation of new materials and other synthetic applications are currently underway.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental details and ¹H NMR spectral, characterizations, and X-ray data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

OL0493251

⁽¹⁸⁾ We are not certain as to why urethane-substituted ynamide **9** does not suffer to the same extent from the problem of homocoupling, with no need in controlling the addition order. However, from our available experiences now working with both urethane- and sulfonyl-substituted ynamides, the latter appears to be much more reactive than the former. Method B is also suitable for preparing these urethane-substituted ynamides (19) (a) Hsung, R. P.; Babcock, J. R.; Chidsey, C. E. D.; Sita, L. R.

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