



## Selective Palladium-Mediated Synthesis of Racemic 4,5-Disubstituted 5*H*-Furan-2-ones from 3-Ynoic Acids and Organic Halides

Renzo Rossi,<sup>\*a</sup> Fabio Bellina,<sup>\*a</sup> Matteo Biagetti<sup>a</sup> and Luisa Mannina<sup>b</sup>

Dipartimento di Chimica e Chimica Industriale, Università di Pisa, Via Risorgimento 35, I-56126 Pisa, Italy,<sup>a</sup> and  
Corso di Laurea in Scienze Ambientali, Università del Molise, Via Mazzini 8, I-86170 Isernia, Italy<sup>b</sup>

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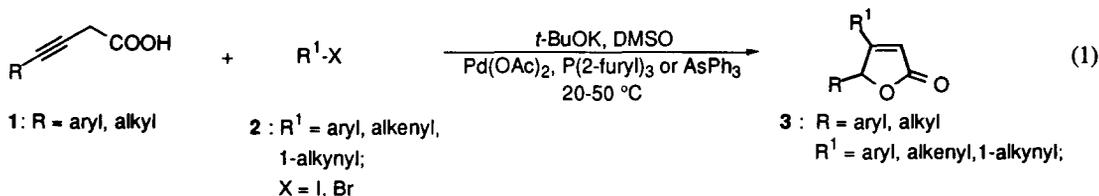
**Abstract:** Racemic 4,5-disubstituted 5*H*-furan-2-ones have been selectively synthesized by addition of 1.2–1.6 equiv of aryl, alkenyl or 1-alkynyl halides and catalytic amounts of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and a soft ligand such as tri-2-furylphosphine or triphenylarsine to the reaction mixtures obtained by treatment of 3-ynoic acids with 1.1 equiv of *t*-BuOK in DMSO at 20 °C. © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

5*H*-Furan-2-ones include several biologically important natural products<sup>1</sup> and are useful synthetic intermediates.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, several methods have been reported in the literature for the synthesis of these substances.<sup>3,4</sup> Among these methods it is worthy of mention, owing to its simplicity and efficiency, that which involves a Pd-mediated hydrocarbonylation of propargyl mesylates followed by an Ag-catalyzed cyclization of the resultant allenic acids.<sup>4a</sup> Interestingly, this method allows the preparation of enantiomerically enriched 3,5-disubstituted 5*H*-furan-2-ones from propargyl mesylates having high enantiomeric excess, but it is unsuitable for the synthesis of 5*H*-furan-2-ones substituted at position 4.

In the context of our studies on the synthesis of 5-membered unsaturated lactone derivatives by intramolecular addition of carboxylic acids to alkynes in the presence of Pd or Ag catalysts,<sup>5,6</sup> recently we developed a new simple method for the selective synthesis of racemic 4,5-disubstituted 5*H*-furan-2-ones, **3**, starting from 3-ynoic acids **1** and organic halides **2** such as (hetero)aryl bromides or iodides, alkenyl bromides or 1-alkynyl bromides. We now wish to describe this new synthetic procedure as well as to outline its limitations. In particular, we found that sequential addition of a catalyst system constituted of 5 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and 10 mol % tri-2-furylphosphine or triphenylarsine and 1.2–1.6 equiv of an organic halide **2** to the reaction mixture obtained by stirring 1 equiv of a 3-ynoic acid **1** with a suspension of 1.1 equiv of *t*-BuOK in DMSO at 20 °C for 0.5 h under argon, followed by stirring the resultant reaction mixture at 20–70 °C for 16–48 h, provided a compound **3** in 15–76 % isolated yield (Eq 1).

Interestingly, compounds **3** so prepared proved to be not contaminated by detectable amounts of the corresponding 4,5-disubstituted 3*H*-furan-2-ones. The results obtained in the synthesis of several compounds of general formula **3** are summarized in the Table. As shown from the results of entries 1 and 2 of this table, tri-2-furylphosphine or triphenylarsine could be used as ligands, but tri-2-furylphosphine gave better results as

regards either the yield or the reaction time. The results reported in this table also show that the yields of the reactions affording 5-alkyl-4-aryl-5H-furan-2-ones (entries 1-4 and 6) were satisfactory and significantly higher than those of the reactions which provided either a typical 5-alkyl-4-alkenyl-5H-furan-2-one (entry 5) or a 5-alkyl-4-(1-alkynyl)-5H-furan-2-one such as **3g** (entry 9).



It must also be noted that the crude reaction mixture, which was obtained from the Pd-catalyzed reaction between **1a** and **2f** (entry 9), contained compound **3g** contaminated by significant amounts of two other products the carbon skeleton of which derived only from **2f**. One of these products was 6,8-tetradecadiyne, **4**.

**Table.** Palladium-catalyzed synthesis of 4,5-disubstituted 5H-furan-2-ones, **3**, starting from 3-ynoic acids, **1**, and organic halides, **2**.

Entry	3-Ynoic acid		Organic halide			Ligand	Reaction conditions (h/°C)	Product			Isolated yield (%)
	1	R	2	R <sup>1</sup>	X			3	R	R <sup>1</sup>	
1 <sup>b</sup>	<b>1a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>2a</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	I	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	16 / 20	<b>3a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	65
2	<b>1a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>2a</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	I	AsPh <sub>3</sub>	24 / 20	<b>3a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	46
3	<b>1a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>2b</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Br	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	16 / 70	<b>3a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	58
4	<b>1b</b>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	<b>2c</b>	2-thienyl	I	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	22 / 20	<b>3b</b>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	2-thienyl	76
5	<b>1b</b>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	<b>2d</b>	H <sub>3</sub> C-C≡CH <sub>2</sub>	Br	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	16 / 20 then 6 / 50	<b>3c</b>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> C-C≡CH <sub>2</sub>	29
6	<b>1a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>2e</b>	2,4-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	I	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	16 / 20	<b>3d</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	2,4-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	55
7	<b>1c<sup>c</sup></b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	<b>2a</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	I	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	48 / 20	<b>3e</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	22
8	<b>1c<sup>c</sup></b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	<b>2e</b>	2,4-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	I	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	23 / 20	<b>3f</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	2,4-Cl <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	18
9	<b>1a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>2f</b>	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> -C≡C-	Br	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	6.5 / 50	<b>3g</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> -C≡C-	15
10	<b>1d</b>	H	<b>2a</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	I	P(2-furyl) <sub>3</sub>	22 / 20	<b>3h</b>	H	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	-----

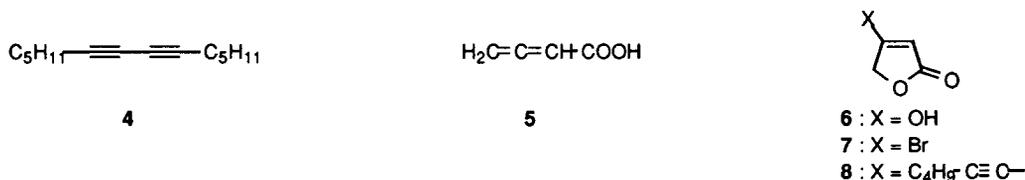
a) Unless otherwise reported these reactions were carried out using a molar ratio **2** : **1** = 1.6; b) The molar ratio **2** : **1** used in this reaction was 1.2; c) Compound **1c** was contaminated by *ca.* 30 % of 4-phenyl-2,3-butadienoic acid.

On the other hand, when it was attempted to increase the yield of **3g** by using 1-iodo-1-heptyne instead of 1-bromo-1-heptyne, **2f**, the Pd-catalyzed reaction provided compound **4** as the only reaction product. This diyne very likely derived from a Pd-catalyzed reductive coupling of the 1-halo-1-alkyne.

Unexpectedly, rather low yields were obtained in the synthesis of compounds **3e** and **3f** starting from 4-phenyl-3-butynoic acid **1c**, which was contaminated by *ca.* 30 % of 4-phenyl-2,3-butadienoic acid, and **2a** and **2e**, respectively (entries 7 and 8).

Finally, it is also worthy of mention that an attempt to extend our procedure for the synthesis of 4,5-disubstituted 5H-furan-2-ones to the preparation of a typical 4-aryl-5H-furan-2-one starting from 3-butynoic acid, **1d**, and an aryl iodide such as **2a**, proved to be unsuccessful (entry 10).<sup>8</sup> In fact, the crude reaction mixture did not contain even traces of the desired product, **3h**. Attempts to synthesize **3h** using **5** in place of **1d**

also failed. The carboxylate of **5** is easily prepared by base-catalyzed isomerization of **1d**.<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, a 4-(1-alkynyl) substituted 5H-furan-2-one, *i.e.* compound **8**, was synthesized, although in modest yield (28 %), by treatment of 4-bromo-5H-furan-2-one, **7**, which is easily available from tetric acid **6**<sup>10</sup> with 1.2 equiv of 1-hexynylzinc chloride in THF at 45 °C for 6 h, in the presence of 5 mol % Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>.<sup>11-13</sup>



In conclusion, we have developed a simple catalytic procedure which allows the selective preparation of 5-alkyl-4-aryl-5H-furan-2-ones **3**, in satisfactory yields. Unfortunately, the yields of the desired furanones are rather low either when the organic halides used in this procedure are alkenyl or 1-alkynyl bromides or when the 3-ynoic acid used is 4-phenyl-3-butynoic acid **1c**. Disappointingly, this new synthetic method can not be used to prepare 4-substituted 5H-furan-2-ones. As to the reaction mechanism of the Pd-catalyzed synthesis of compounds **3**, very likely it involves an attack of the carboxylate anions generated from **1** onto the triple carbon-carbon bond of these ynoic acids which is electrophilically activated by complexation to the Pd(II) species derived from oxidative addition of the organic halides **2** to a Pd(0) species. Reductive elimination from the resulting  $\sigma$ -bonded intermediates leads to 3H-furan-2-ones, which undergo a base-catalyzed isomerization to the corresponding 5H-furan-2-ones.

Biological tests to evaluate the fungicidal activity of compounds **3**, which have been synthesized according to this new catalytic procedure, are currently underway.

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7. All the new compounds in this study gave satisfactory spectral and microanalytical data. *5H-Furan-2-ones* **3a** and **3e** are known compounds and their physical and spectral properties were in agreement with those reported in the literature [**3a**: Kita, Y.; Sekihachi, J.; Hayashi, Y.; Da, Y. Z.; Yamamoto, M.; Akai, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, *55*, 1108-1112]; [**3e**: Schrader, L. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1971**, 2993-2996]. Some spectral properties of compounds **3b-3d**, **3f** and **3g** are as follows. **3b**: MS, *m/z* (%): 208 (26), 166 (100), 137 (78); 109 (90), 65 (20); IR (film): 1746, 1613, 1164, 997, 713  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  0.92 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.68 (ddm, 1H,  $J = -18.6$  and 8.0 Hz), 2.08 (ddm, 1H,  $J = -18.6$  and 8.0 Hz), 5.34 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.0$ , 2.1 and 1.3 Hz), 6.11 (d, 1H,  $J = 1.3$  Hz), 7.13 (dd, 1H,  $J = 4.9$  and 3.6 Hz), 7.29 (dd, 1H,  $J = 3.6$  and 0.8 Hz), 7.54 ppm (dd, 1H,  $J = 4.9$  and 0.8 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  13.62, 17.64, 36.25, 82.02, 112.17, 128.42, 128.86, 132.90, 132.90, 160.49, 172.56 ppm. **3c**: MS, *m/z* (%): 166 (1), 124 (100), 123 (40), 95 (50), 67 (59); IR (film): 1762, 1757, 1752, 1747, 1172  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  0.90 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.98 (dd, 3H,  $J = 1.5$  and 0.8 Hz), 5.18 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.0$ , 2.8 and 1.5 Hz), 5.24 (q, 1H,  $J = 0.8$  Hz), 5.38 (q, 1H,  $J = 1.5$  Hz), 5.88 ppm (d, 1H,  $J = 1.3$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  13.62, 17.75, 20.65, 36.28, 81.97, 115.17, 120.46, 135.35, 167.53, 172.91 ppm. **3d**: m.p. 98-100  $^\circ\text{C}$ ; MS, *m/z* (%): 244 (13), 242 (22), 181 (23), 179 (70), 43 (100); IR (KBr): 1741, 1622, 944, 875, 847  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  1.39 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 5.69 (qd, 1H,  $J = 6.7$  and 1.6 Hz), 6.35 (d, 1H,  $J = 1.6$  Hz), 7.23 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.36 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  and 2.0 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  18.66, 79.73, 119.59, 127.79, 128.32, 130.56, 130.91, 133.58, 136.98, 165.93, 172.91 ppm. **3f**: MS, *m/z* (%): 304 (8), 241 (12), 170 (15), 105 (100), 77 (37); IR (film): 1752, 1625, 1019, 870, 698  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 200 MHz):  $\delta$  6.48 (br s, 1H), 6.57 (br s, 1H), 7.00 - 7.50 ppm (m, 8H). **3g**: MS, *m/z* (%): 192 (1), 149 (33), 105 (56), 91 (100); IR (film): 1767, 1612, 1282, 1161, 1080  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 200 MHz):  $\delta$  0.92 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 1.20 - 1.70 (br m, 6H), 1.50 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 2.47 (t, 2H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 4.96 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 6.02 ppm (s, 1H).
8. For other Pd-catalyzed cyclization processes involving 3-ynoic acids in which it was observed that 3-butynoic acid, **1d**, did not give the desired cyclization products, see: (a) Yanagihara, N.; Lambert, C.; Iritani, K.; Utimoto, K.; Nozaki, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 2753-2754; (b) Wang, Z.; Lu, X. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 2254-2255.
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11. Some spectral properties of compound **8** are as follows. MS, *m/z* (%): 164 (14), 135 (15), 119 (21) 105 (80), 91 (100); IR (film): 1778, 1752, 1610, 1293, 1147  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 200 MHz):  $\delta$  0.87 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 1.30 - 1.55 (m, 4H), 2.39 (t, 2H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 1.47 (d, 2H,  $J = 1.8$  Hz), 6.02 ppm (s, 1H).
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13. It should be noted that a similar reaction between 4-(trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)-*5H*-furan-2-one [Grigg, R.; Kennewell, P.; Savic, V. *Tetrahedron* **1994**, *50*, 5489-5494] and 1.2 equiv of 1-octynylzinc chloride in THF at 20  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 1.5 h, in the presence of 5 mol %  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ , provided 4-(1-octynyl)-*5H*-furan-2-one in 19 % isolated yield. Moreover, a low yield (17 %) of this same compound was also obtained by reaction of 4-(trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)-*5H*-furan-2-one with 1.2 equiv of 1-octyne in DMF at room temperature for 4 h in the presence of 2.4 equiv of  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , 10 mol %  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  and 20 mol % CuI.