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UV Light-mediated regioselective methylsulfonyl discrimination *via* Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of 2,4-dimethylsulfonylpyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines

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ABSTRACT

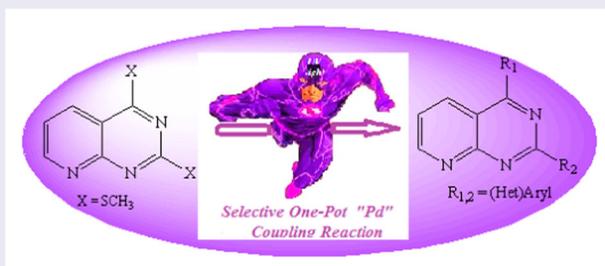
An effective and novel photochemical method for the preparation of 2,4-disubstituted pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines is reported from 2,4-dimethylsulfonyl-pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines through a Liebeskind-Srogl coupling reaction involving an original selective methyl sulfonyl discrimination using UV light as a source of energy. Our strategies involve a two-step and a one-pot approach with reaction times of 11–18 h and yields ranging between 72 and 94%. The two strategies are compared.

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regioselective;
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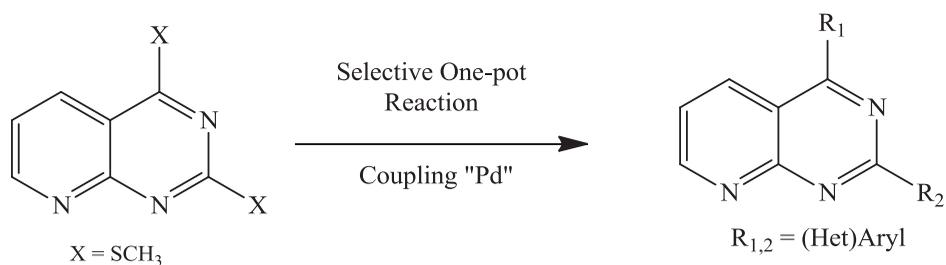
1. Introduction

Palladium-catalyzed reactions including a family of cross-coupling reactions that employ palladium complexes as catalysts [1–3], represent a powerful strategy for the synthesis of highly substituted heterocycles. The selective activation of polyhalogenated heterocycles in such reactions has been extensively investigated [4–8] and can provide a versatile way to prepare libraries of molecules functionalized with different substituents in specific positions of the heterocyclic scaffold.

In the search for new nitrogen-containing biocompatible heterocycles pyridopyrimidines appeared to be very useful candidates. Including pyridopyrimidine in more complex

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Scheme 1. General strategy.

molecules has led to a wide range of bioactive scaffolds which can be used as antimicrobial [9], antibacterial [10,11], antifolate [12,13], anti-inflammatory [14,15], insecticidal [16], antiviral [17], anticancer agents [18], antihypertensive [19], antileishmanial [20], anti-convulsants [21], diuretic and potassium-sparing activity [22,23], antituberculostatic [24], antiaggressive [25,26], tyrosine kinase [27] and selective anti-tumoral agents [28]. This explains the interest of chemists in developing strategies and versatile methods to obtain and functionalize them [29].

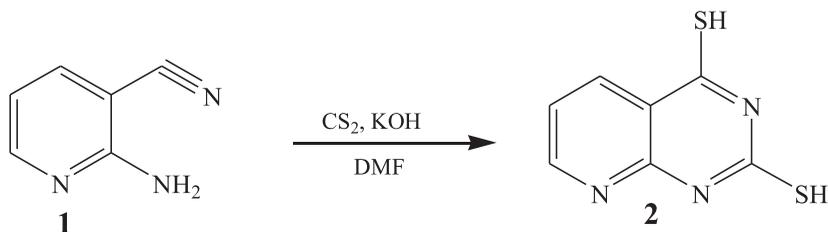
In addition, photo-induced syntheses plays a special role in organic chemistry due to its ecological features and simple and mild reaction conditions, and it has been used as a source of energy for some Pd cross-coupling reaction [30,31].

Based on our previous experience with these heteroaromatic rings and photochemical reactions [32–34] and on other reports of regio- or chemo-selective bis-arylations of related heterocycles [35,36], we decided to develop a new methodology to access a series of isomeric 2,4-disubstituted pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines *via* cross-coupling reactions (Scheme 1). In the present paper, we report a new method to access bisulfanyl derivative **3** and their first regioselective functionalization by two different strategies using the Liebeskind-Srogl coupling reaction [37–40].

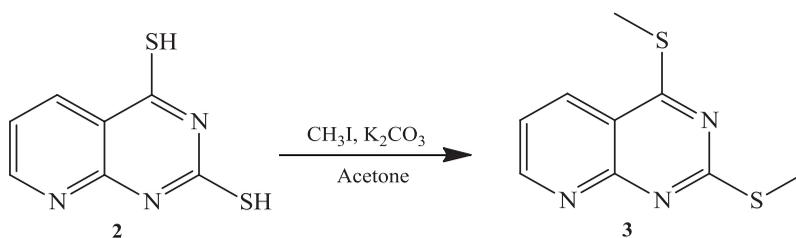
2. Results and discussion

The synthesis of sulfanyl heterocycles has been performed by reacting 2-amino-3-pyridine carbonitrile with carbon disulfide in DMF in the presence of KOH (Scheme 2) [41].

The alkylation of sulfanyl heterocycle has been performed starting from compound **2** to obtain the di-sulfide intermediate **3** (Scheme 3) [42].



Scheme 2. Preparation of bis-thiol heterocycle **2**.



Scheme 3. Preparation of bisulfide intermediate **3**.

2.1. Optimization of reaction conditions

Our initial investigation was started with the reaction of compound **3** with phenyl boronic acid under an argon atmosphere in different types of solvents.

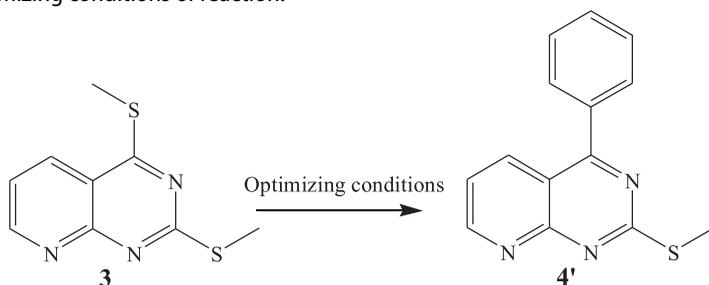
In the absence of any light source and catalyst, the product was not obtained (Table 1, entry 1). The reaction was then repeated in presence of $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ as catalyst and CuTC as a cofactor in a glass tube at room temperature in the absence of any source of light, the product also was not obtained (Table 1, entry 2) [32–34]. The reaction was repeated for a third time using a 300 nm wavelength light source, in presence or absence of $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ and CuTC as catalyst and cofactor respectively in a glass tube at room temperature and again the product was not obtained (Table 1, entry 3,4). Furthermore, the reaction was repeated using a 300 nm wavelength light source at room temperature in the presence of different catalysts and solvents. Initially, the desired product was obtained with an isolated yield of 10% in the presence of $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ as a catalyst (Table 1, entry 6). The product was not obtained when CuMeSal was used as a cofactor (Table 1, entry 5,7). However, the use of $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ in the presence of CuTC increases the yield to 88% (Table 1, entry 13).

Solvent screening shows that the reaction in DMF gives the best yield (88%), in comparison with other solvents, like DMSO, THF, MeCN, CHCl_3 or acetone (Table 1, entries 7–13). Optimization studies showed that light is needed for the reaction and that the yield of the reaction is wavelength dependent (Table 1, entries 14, 15). Air significantly diminishes the yield to 20% (Table 1, entry 16) and suggests that an argon atmosphere is essential for the success of the reaction.

2.2. Application of the methodology

Having in hand the optimal conditions, we first studied the scope of the reaction, by reacting compounds **3** under Liebeskind-Srogl cross-coupling reaction conditions [43]. We were able to obtain regioselective arylation at C4. Reacting the disulfide **3** and a stoichiometric amount of phenylboronic acid using $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (5 mol%) as catalyst in presence of CuTC and DMF, we observed that the starting compound **3** was totally consumed and only the monoarylated derivative **4'** was formed in a good yield (89%) and no trace of substituted product has been observed (Table 2, Entry 1; Column 3).¹

After this result, we decided to generate the monoarylated derivatives by reaction between compound **3** and different boronic acids. The heteroaryl (Het)Ar¹ were successfully introduced and the monoarylated derivatives were obtained after purification by

Table 1. Optimizing conditions of reaction.^a

Entry	Catalyst	Cofactor	<i>Hv</i>	Solvent	Yields (%) (Time)
1	–	–	–	DMF	0 (24 h)
2	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	–	DMF	0 (24 h)
3	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	–	300 nm	DMF	0 (24 h)
4	–	CuTC	300 nm	DMF	0 (24 h)
5	Pd(OAc) ₂	CuMeSal	300 nm	DMF	0 (9 h)
6	Pd(OAc) ₂	CuTC	300 nm	DMF	10 (9 h)
7	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuMeSal	300 nm	MeCN	0 (9 h)
8	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	MeCN	60 (9 h)
9	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	THF	41 (9 h)
10	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	DMSO	18 (9 h)
11	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	acetone	26 (9 h)
12	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	CHCl ₃	34 (9 h)
13	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	DMF	89 (8 h)
14	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	> 280 nm	DMF	41 (8 h)
15	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	Visible light	DMF	58 (8 h)
16 ^c	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CuTC	300 nm	DMF	20 (8 h)

^aYield of pure isolated product. Reaction conditions: C₆H₅B(OH)₂, Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5 mol %), DMF (5 mL), CuTC, *hν*, under argon atmosphere.

^bIsolated yields.

^cReaction run in air.

chromatography on silica gel. The yields of isolated products ranged between 76 and 89% for a reaction time of 8–9 h (Table 2).

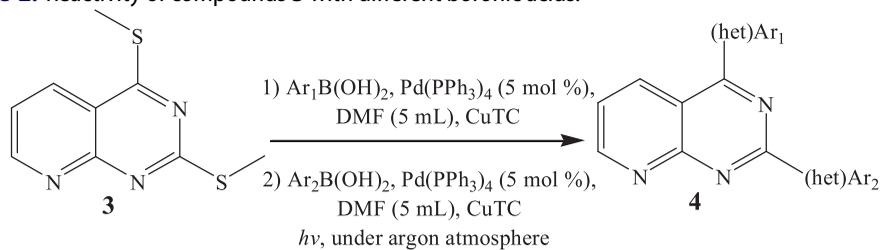
Then, the monoarylated products were engaged in a second Liebeskind-Srogl coupling reaction to afford the diarylated derivatives **4**.² The second heteroaryl groups, (Het)Ar², were successfully introduced and the expected products were obtained after purification by chromatography on silica gel. Yields of isolated products oscillated between 72 and 90% in a total reaction time of 16–18 h (Table 2; Columns 4, 5, and 6).

We then envisioned a one-pot arylation at the C2 and C4 position. The ethanol was used as co-solvent to get the best yield (Table 3).³

The two heteroaryl (Het) Ar₁ and (Het) Ar₂ were successfully introduced and the expected heterocycles were obtained after purification by chromatography on silica gel. The yields of isolated products ranged between 77 and 94% for a reaction time of 11–13 h (Table 3). This one-pot method, compared to the two-step strategy, produced the products in approximately the same yields but in less time. This result proves the importance of the one-pot strategy.

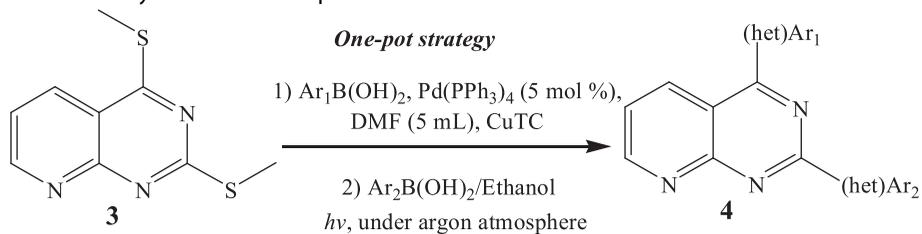
Structure of final product **4a** was determined by X-ray analysis (Figure 1).

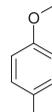
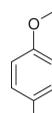
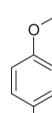
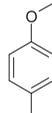
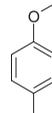
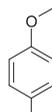
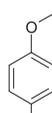
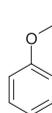
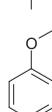
Based on the studies by Handy and co-authors, we can justify the order and site of the coupling using the ¹H NMR chemical shift values of the parent non-sulfited heteroaromatics. Indeed, we found that palladium cross-coupling reactions were carried

Table 2. Reactivity of compounds **3** with different boronic acids.

Entry	(het)Ar ₁	Yields of monoarylated ^b (%) (Time (h))	(het)Ar ₂	Products	Yields ^b (%) (Time)
1		89 (8 h)		4a	90 (8 h)
2		86 (8 h)		4b	84 (8 h)
3		76 (8 h)		4c	76 (8 h)
4		88 (9 h)		4d	74 (8 h)
5		88 (9 h)		4e	85 (9 h)
6		88 (9 h)		4f	78 (10 h)
7		76 (8 h)		4g	72 (10 h)
8		88 (9 h)		4h	84 (10 h)
9		88 (9 h)		4i	78 (9 h)

^aYields are given for isolated products.

Table 3. Reactivity of di-sulfide compound **3** with different boronic acids.

Entry	(het)Ar ₁	(het)Ar ₂	Products	Yields ^b (%) (Time)
1			4a	94 (11 h)
2			4b	87 (11 h)
3			4c	79 (11 h)
4			4d	77 (11 h)
5			4e	89 (13 h)
6			4f	82 (13 h)
7			4g	78 (13 h)
8			4h	90 (13 h)
9			4i	86 (13 h)

^aYields are given for isolated products.

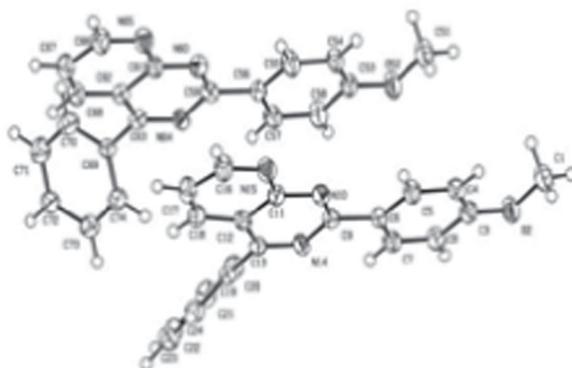


Figure 1. Ortep of compound **4a**.

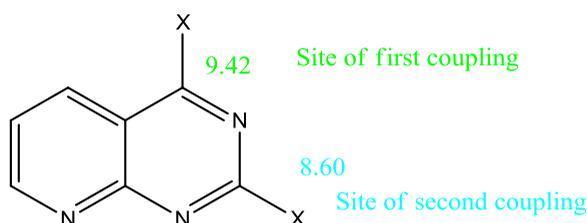


Figure 2. Cross-coupling order based upon the ^1H NMR chemical shift values.

out successively in the sequence *C4* first and *C2* second (Figure 2) [44], which means that the carbon with the most deshielded proton is the most reactive carbon.

The current research describes the first photochemical access to 2,4-disubstituted pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine and its first use to build substituted pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines using a novel and highly effective strategy. An efficient and simple strategy was adopted to prepare highly substituted pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines which facilitate the orchestration of selective palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions for the preparation of focused libraries of biologically active compounds. The one-pot and step-by-step processes were synthetically compared. The great value of the one-pot methodology is a result of good yields and fast turnover.

Notes

1. General procedure for the synthesis of **4**: A solution containing 2,4-dimethylsulfanylpyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine **3** (0.35 mmol), the (het)aryl boronic acid (1.1 equiv), CuTC (2.2 equiv) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.05 equiv) in dry DMF (5 mL) was flushed with argon for 15 min. The brown suspension was irradiated under argon for 8 h. After complete disappearance of starting material **3**, a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ was added, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 × 10 mL). The solvent were evaporated under reduced pressure the residue was next purified by flash chromatography to give the attempted monoarylated products. General procedure for the synthesis of **4'** *via* Liebeskind-Srogl cross-coupling reaction:
2. A solution containing 4-heteroaryl-2-methylsulfanylpyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine **4'** (0.35 mmol), the (het)aryl boronic acid (2.2 equiv), CuTC (2.2 equiv) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.05 equiv) in dry

DMF (5 mL) was flushed with argon for 15 min. The brown suspension was irradiated under argon for 8 h. After complete disappearance of starting material **4'**, a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ was added, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 × 10 mL). The solvent were evaporated under reduced pressure the residue was next purified by flash chromatography to give the attempted biarylated products types **4**. **4-Phenyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine 4a**: was isolated after flash chromatography (DCM) as a white solid. Mp 128–130°C; IR (ATR-Ge, cm⁻¹) ν 1592, 1456, 1314, 1262, 1078, 914, 856, 789; ¹H RMN (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H_{Ar}), 7.50 (m, 4H, *J* = 2.5, 7.5 Hz, H_{Ar}, H₆), 7.86 (dd, 2H, *J* = 2.5, 7.5 Hz, H_{Ar}), 8.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H₅), 8.80 (dd, 2H, *J* = 2.5, 7.5 Hz, H_{Ar}), 9.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H₇); ¹³C RMN (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.66 (CH₃), 114.33 (2 × CH), 116.32 (Cq), 122.25 (CH), 128.55 (2 × CH), 129.20 (Cq), 129.28 (2 × CH), 131.28 (CH), 132.03 (2 × CH), 136.52 (CH), 137.48 (Cq), 157.44 (CH), 160.08 (Cq), 161.78 (Cq), 163.49 (Cq), 169.46 (Cq); HRMS (EIMS): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₅N₃O: 314.1287, found: 314.1289.

3. General procedure for the one-pot synthesis of **3** *via* Liebeskind-Srogl cross-coupling reaction: A solution containing 2,4-bimethylsulfanylpyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine **3** (0.35 mmol), the (het)aryl boronic acid (1.1 equiv), CuTC (2.2 equiv) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.05 equiv) in dry DMF (5 mL) was flushed with argon for 15 min. The brown suspension was irradiated under argon. After complete disappearance of starting material **3**, the second (het)aryl boronic acid (1.5 equiv) dissolved in ethanol and added to the reaction. After complete of reaction, a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ was added, and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 × 10 mL). The solvent were evaporated under reduced pressure the residue was next purified by flash chromatography to give the attempted biarylated products types **4**. **2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(3-thienyl)pyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine 4c**: was isolated after flash chromatography (DCM) as a white solid. Mp 182–184°C; IR (ATR-Ge, cm⁻¹) ν 1616, 1522, 1436, 1382, 1334, 1204, 944, 747; ¹H RMN (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.08 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H_{Ar}), 7.37 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H_{Het}), 7.42 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.0, 8.0 Hz, H₆), 7.80 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H_{Ar}), 8.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.0 Hz, H_{Het}), 8.44 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H₅), 8.58 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.0, 8.0 Hz, H_{Het}), 9.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.0 Hz, H₇); ¹³C RMN (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.50 (CH₃), 114.25 (2 × CH), 116.06 (Cq), 121.96 (CH), 125.90 (CH), 128.19 (CH), 128.96 (Cq), 129.94 (CH), 131.90 (2 × CH), 136.50 (CH), 141.81 (Cq), 157.30 (CH), 159.97 (Cq), 160.46 (Cq), 161.71 (Cq), 169.51 (Cq); HRMS (EIMS): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃N₃OS: 320.0858, found: 320.0854.

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Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

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