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Catalyst and solvent switched divergent C-H functionalization: oxidative annulation of N-aryl substituted quinazolin-4-amine with alkynes

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The development of site-selective functionalizations/annulations is one of the most challenging from unsymmetrical 2-aryl cyclic 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds practices in synthetic organic chemistry particularly for substrates with alkynes/alkenes via catalyst and solvent controlled bearing several similarly reactive C-H bonds. Herein, we describe divergent C-H functionalization (Scheme 1a)⁶. Carretero et al. catalyst and solvent controlled ortho/peri site-selective oxidative delivered a Rh^{III}/Rh^I-controlled divergent functionalization of annulation of C-H bonds of N-aryl substituted guinazolin-4amines with internal alkynes. The ortho C–H selective annulation was observed using Pd-catalyst in DMF to give indole-quinazoline olefinated benzylamines (or phenethylamines) (Scheme 1b).⁷ derivatives, while, Ru-catalyst in PEG-400 favoured the peri C-H As a part of our ongoing studies on the development of new bond annulation exclusively to furnish pyrido-quinazoline protocols for the C-H activation/functionalizations¹¹ and derivatives.

Regioselective C-H bond functionalizations/annulations is one of the most challenging practices in synthetic organic chemistry particularly for substrates bearing several similarly reactive C-H bonds.1 Consequently, this has become an important goal in the field of contemporary organic synthesis.² Over the past few years, the transition metal-catalyzed C-H activation/functionalization has become a rapidly evolving research field towards the synthesis of bioactive complex polycyclic molecules.³ However, despite the tremendous progress that has been made, site selectivity remains challenging and the reports describing this phenomena are very limited. Generally, the use of substrate,⁴ ligands⁵ and catalyst control⁶⁻⁸ has been explored for the site selective C-H functionalizations/annulations.9 However, bond the development of strategies for functionalization of distinctive and positional C-H sites on N-aryl Substituted quinazolin-4amine has not been explored till date. Additionally indole/pyridoquinazoline derivatives, have emerged as important building blocks in contemporary synthesis and these frameworks being an integral part of many bioactive molecules is considered important structures in drug discovery.10

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C-H Lam et al. reported the synthesis of spiroindenes/benzopyrans aryl and heteroaryl C-H bonds of picolinamide substrates that produced selectively, isoquinoline-1-carboxamides or orthoconstruction of functionalized heteroaromatics,¹² we investigated a Ru/Pd catalyzed highly efficient and



Catalyst/solvent Scheme 1 annulations/functionalizations.

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regioselective functionalization (oxidative annulation) of different C–H bonds of *N*-aryl substituted guinazolin-4-amine with alkynes (Scheme 1c). The selective cleavage of peri C-H and N-phenyl ortho C-H bond of the N-phenylquinazolin-4amine substrates was observed by simple tuning of catalyst ¹ and solvent systems, which could provide the selective and straightforward access to indole-quinazolines or pyridoquinazolines.

N-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazolin-4-amine (1e) the and Cu(OAc)₂ (0.3 equiv) at 100 °C in DMF for 12 h under open air furnished the ortho C-H bond annulated product of 1e, i.e., **3ea** as sole product in 45% yield (Table 1, entry 1). When the reaction was carried out with increased quantity of Cu(OAc)₂ (0.50 equiv.), no improvement in yield of 3ea was observed (Table 1, entry 2). With our desire to increase the yield of 3ea, we used TBAB as an additive for this transformation. To our delight, the product yield was improved to 68% (Table 1, entry 3). The use of oxygen filled in a balloon did not show any significant effect on the yield of 3ea (Table 1, entry 4). Other oxidants such as Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O, Ag₂CO₃ and AgNO₃ were screened (Table S1, entries 1-3, Electronic Supporting Information, ESI) when $Cu(OAc)_2$ was proved to be the best (Table 1, entry 3 vs Table S1, entries 1-3, ESI). Solvent effects were also examined and the reaction did not proceed well in solvents such as 1,4-dioxane, toluene, DCE, PEG-400 and H₂O (Table S1, entries 4-8, ESI). By lowering or increasing the reaction temperature afforded lower yields of product (Table S1, entries 9-10, ESI). The yield of **3ea** dropped to 52% when the catalyst loading was decreased from 10 mol % to 5 mol% PdCl₂ resulted in lowering the product yield (Table S1, entry 12, ESI).

Table 1 Optimization of reaction conditions^a

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Entry	Catalyst (mol%)	Oxidant	Solvent	yield ^b (%)	
				3ea	4ea
1	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	Cu(OAc)₂	DMF	45	0
2 ^c	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	Cu(OAc) ₂	DMF	45	0
3 ^{<i>d</i>}	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	Cu(OAc) ₂	DMF	68	0
4 ^{<i>d</i>}	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	$Cu(OAc)_2/O_2$	DMF	65	0
5 ^{<i>d</i>}	[RuCl ₂ (p- cymene)] ₂ (5)	Cu(OAc) ₂	DMF	28	15
6	[RuCl ₂ (p- cymene)] ₂ (5)	Cu(OAc) ₂	DMF	35	30
7	[RuCl ₂ (p- cymene)] ₂ (5)	Cu(OAc) ₂	PEG-400	0	62
8	[RuCl ₂ (p-	Cu(OAc) ₂	H ₂ O	0	55

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	cymene)] ₂ (5) [RuCl ₂ (<i>p</i> - cymene)] ₂ (5)	Cu(OAc) ₂ .H ₂ O	PEG-400-10	View Art 03 <u>9</u> /D00	icle Online B00318E
0	-	$Cu(OAc)_2.H_2O$	PEG-400	-	-
1	-	Cu(OAc) ₂	DMF	-	-
2 ^e	[RuCl ₂ (<i>p</i> - cymene)] ₂ (5)	Cu(OAc) ₂	PEG-400	0	13
3 ^e	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	Cu(OAc) ₂	DMF	0	0

^aReaction conditions: 1e (0.452 mmol), 2a (0.452 mmol), Our initial investigation focused on the oxidative annulation of catalyst, oxidant (0.3 equiv.) and solvent (3 mL) at 100 °C for with 12 h. bIsolated yields. c0.5 equiv. of Cu(OAc)2 is used. d1.0 diphenylacetylene (2a) in the presence of Pd(OAc)₂ (10 mol %) equiv. of TBAB is used as additive. ^eThe reaction was performed for 10 h. eN₂ balloon used as oxidant.

The use of Ru-catalyst, e.g. $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$ in the presence of Cu(OAc)₂ is well documented for the oxidative C-H activation/annulation.13 We utilized the same catalyst, in the presence of Cu(OAc)₂ (1.0 equiv) in DMF, to afford **3ea** in 28% yield along with a new product 4ea that was thought to be formed via the peri C-H bond activation/annulation of quinazoline moiety¹⁴ (Table 1, entry 5). Thus the conditions were varied to establish the optimum reaction conditions for the peri C-H bond activation/annulation. When the reaction was performed in the absence TBAB, the desired product 3ea was obtained in 35% yield along with peri C-H bond annulated product i.e. pyridoquinazoline (4ea) in 30% yield (Table 1, entry 6). After switching the solvent from DMF to PEG-400, the chemoselectivity of the product was changed drastically, giving the peri C-H bond annulated product (4ea) as the sole product in 62% yield (Table 1, entry 7). The yield was decreased to 55% when H_2O was used as the solvent instead of PEG-400 (Table 1, entry 8). Among the other solvents tested (Table S1, entry 11, ESI). Replacement of the Pd(OAc)₂ with the 1,4-dioxane, toluene and DCE (Table S1, entries 13-15, ESI) led to poor selectivity and substrate conversion. Switching the oxidant from Cu(OAc)₂ to Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O increased the yield of 4ea to 65% (Table 1, entry 9). The yield decreased significantly when AgOAc or AgCO₃ or AgNO₃ was used as an oxidant (Table S1, entries 16-18, ESI). When the amount of the catalyst, reaction temperature and time was reduced or increased, the yield of 4ea was affected (Table S1, entries 19-24, ESI). No annulated product was formed in the absence of Ru and Pd catalyst (Table 1, entry 10-11). Finally, the N-phenyl ortho C-H bond of quinazolin-4-amines with alkyne was optimized using 10 mol% of Pd catalyst to afford 3ea in 68% yield (Table 1, entry 4), while the annulation through peri C-H bond was optimized using 5 mol % of Ru catalyst to obtain 4ea in 65% yield (Table 1, entry 9). When the reaction was performed in the presence of Pd/Ru catalyst under N_2 atmosphere, the expected products 3ea and 4ea was either not formed or obtained in poor yields (Table 1, entry 12-13) indicating participation of aerial O₂ in this reaction.

> After establishing the optimized reaction conditions for selective annulation of N-phenylquinazolin-4-amine, the scope of the reaction of various quinazolin-4-amines with alkynes was examined. As shown in Scheme 1, Pd-catalysed selective annulation of ortho C-H bond of N-aryl ring of Nphenylquinazolin-4-amine with alkynes proceeded well to give the desired products irrespective of substitution patterns on the N-aryl ring of quinazoline. The N-aryl ring of quinazoline containing electron-donating substituents like Me- (3ba, 3bb, 3bc, 3bd, 3be, 3ca, 3da, 3ja and 3ka), MeO- (3ea, 3eb, and

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3ed) and electron-withdrawing substituents such as CI- (3fa and 3fb), Br- (3ga and 3gb), CF_3 - (3ha), and NO_2 - (3ia) provided the corresponding annulated products in good to moderate yields (Table 2). It was observed that the quinazoline withelectron-donating substituent Me- (3ja) and electron-withdrawing group Cl- (3ka) were well tolerated under these reaction conditions and the reaction proceeded smoothly to give the corresponding derivatives in good yields. In case of guinazoline with two electron-donating groups (1), the formation of expected product (3la) was not observed.

Next, we tested the feasibility of this Pd-catalysed selective annulation reaction with a wide range of alkynes 2a-f. The reaction was compatible with a variety of substituents at the para position on the benzene rings of internal alkynes, such as electron-donating Me- (3ab, 3bb, 3eb, 3fb and 3gb) and MeO- (3ac and 3bc) and electron-withdrawing F- (3ad, 3bd and **3ed**) groups. These alkynes could smoothly react with Nphenylquinazolin-4-amine (1) to afford the corresponding annulated products in good to moderate yields. The alkyne possessing a strong electron withdrawing NO₂ at the para position on the benzene rings failed to provide the desired product (3ag). Gratifyingly, a heterocyclic thiophene derivative also served as a suitable substrate and afforded 3ae and 3be in satisfactory yields. The reaction even worked with aliphatic internal alkynes to give the desired product (**3af**) in good $R^3 = R^4 = Ph$; **3ia**; 55% vields.

Table 2 Pd-catalyzed synthesis of indole-quinazoline via ortho C-H functionalization^{*a,b,c*}



 $R^3 = R^4 = p - MeC_6H_4$; **3ab**; 65% $R^3 = R^4 = p - OMeC_6H_4$; **3ac**; 66% $R^3 = R^4 = p - FC_6H_4$; **3ad**; 62% R³ = R⁴ = 2-thienyl; **3ae**; 60% $R^3 = R^4 = CH_2CH_3$; **3af**; 62% $R^3 = R^4 = p - NO_2C_6H_4$; **3ag**; 0%



 $R^3 = R^4 = p - OMeC_6H_4$; **3bc**; 60%

 $R^3 = R^4 = p - FC_6H_4$; **3bd**; 64% R³ = R⁴ = 2-thienyl; **3be**; 59%





R³ = R⁴ = Ph; **3ea**;68% $R^3 = R^4 = p - MeC_6H_4$; **3eb**; 61% $R^3 = R^4 = p - FC_6H_4$; **3ed**; 63%



R³ = R⁴ = Ph; **3ga**; 68% $R^3 = R^4 = p - MeC_6H_4$; **3gb**; 67%







^aReaction conditions: 1 (0.452 mmol), 2 (0.452 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.045 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (0.3 equiv.), TBAB (0.452 mmol) DMF (3 mL), 100 °C, 12 h. ^bIsolated yields. ^cexclusive chemoselectivity was observed, ^dRatio of the regioisomers was determined by ¹H NMR.

The unsymmetrical alkyne 2f reacted under these conditions to afford a mixture of two regioisomeric products, i.e. 3gh and **3gh**' in the ratio of 1:1 (65% yield). Since the R_f values were too close, the separation and isolation of individual isomers were quite difficult. Nevertheless, the structure of the 3aa was further confirmed by X-ray crystallography.¹⁴

The oxidative annulations of various N-phenylquinazolin-4amines (1) with internal alkynes (2) were also investigated under the Ru-catalyst for the construction of pyrido[2,3,4de]quinazolines (4) through peri C-H annulation/functionalization as shown in Table 3. The peri C-H annulations of N-phenylquinazolin-4-amines having electrondonating Me- (4ba, 4bc), MeO- (4ea, 4ec) and electronwithdrawing Cl- (4fa, 4fb), Br- (4ga), CF₃ (4ha) substituents on



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the *N*-aryl ring proceeded with high selectivity to produce pyrido[2,3,4-*de*]quinazoline derivatives in good yields. Both the electron-donating Me- (**4ab**, **4fb** and **4kb**), MeO- (**4ac**, **4bc** and **4ec**) and electron-withdrawing F- (**4ad**) groups at the *para*-position on the benzene rings of internal alkynes were well accommodated and gave in good yields. Further, quinazoline with electron-withdrawing group Cl- (**4ka** and **4kb**) were found to furnish good yields. Notably, quinazoline with two electron-donating groups (**1**) also provided desired product **4la** in moderate yield. Further, the reaction of **1a** with a terminal alkyne i.e phenyl acetylene in the presence of Ru catalyst was examined. However, formation of no product was observed in this case indicating that the terminal alkyne was ineffective under the reaction conditions employed.

Table 3 Ru-catalyzed synthesis of triphenyl-4*H*-pyrido[2,3,4*de*]quinazolines *via peri* C–H functionalization^{*a,b,c*}





R³ = R⁴ = Ph; **4la**; 55%

^aReaction conditions: **1** (0.452 mmol), **2** (0.452 mmol), [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (0.022 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (0.3 equiv.), PEG-400 (3 mL), 100 °C, 12 h. ^bYields of isolated products are given, ^cexclusive chemoselectivity was observed.

Encouraged by the above results, we explored the catalyst and solvent controlled divergent C–H functionalization of *N*-benzylquinazolin-4-amine **1m** with phenyl substituent internal acetylene **2a** using Ru-catalyst and the desired *peri* annulated products, **4ma** was obtained in 63% yield. Formation of *ortho* C–H functionalized product (**3ma**) was not observed using Pd-catalyst with same substrates (Scheme 2a).

In order to demonstrate the scale-up potential of our method, a gram-scale experiment involving the Pd catalyzed annulation was performed employing **1a** and **2a** as model substrates; the product **3aa** was obtained in 62% (1.11 g) yield (Scheme 2b). The 4.52 mmol scale reaction of **1a** and **2a** under Ru catalyst could give the product **4aa** in 60% yield (1.08 g) (Scheme 2b). To gain some insights about the reaction mechanism, the following control experiment was performed (Scheme 2c). The *N*-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)quinazolin-4-amine (**1n**) was used under Pd catalysis and no reaction with **2a** was observed, and **1n** was recovered in 92%, indicating that the *ortho* C–H of *N*-aryl ring of quinazolin-4-amine plays a key role for the synthesis of indole-quinazoline derivatives (3) (Scheme 2c).



Scheme 2 Synthetic elaboration, gram-scale and control experiments.

The reasons behind the site selectivity may be due to the formation of kinetically favoured six-membered metallacycle **A** (Scheme **1**) in the presence of Pd catalyst and the formation

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of five-membered metallacycle B (Scheme 1) when Ru catalyst 1 involves the formation of five membered ruthenacycle E-5 was used.6a,13

Based on these observations and the previous reports, $^{\rm 13,\ 15,\ 16}$ the mechanism for this regioselective functionalization of C-H bonds are proposed in Scheme 3. Firstly, Pd(OAc)₂ reacts with 1 through electrophilic aromatic palladation to form intermediate E-1, which subsequently interacts with alkyne 2 to generate a vinylic palladium(II) intermediate E-2. The sixmembered palladacycle E-3 can be formed from E-2 through 2nd electrophilic aromatic palladation involving the interaction of proximate "NH" group with the Pd(II) species. Subsequent In summary, we have demonstrated for the first time, the reductive elimination affords the corresponding 4-(1H-indol-1yl)quinazoline product (3) along with Pd(0) complex that can be oxidized to regenerate the active palladium acetate complex in the presence of oxidant. It is known that TBAB acts as a stabilizer for Pd catalyst avoiding the fast agglomerization the peri C-H bond functionalization was favoured by Ruand thus allows the progress of the desired reaction.¹⁷



Scheme 3 Plausible reaction mechanism

In case of *peri*-guinazoline C-H bond activation, Ru-catalyzed cycle starts by forming the active catalyst RuL(OAc)₂ (E-4) via, the ligand exchange of $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$ with an acetate ion. The peri C-H bond activation of N-phenylquinazolin-4-amines

followed by insertion of alkyne moiety 2 into the 1859/Odoond 108B furnish the ruthenium intermediate E-6. Finally, a reductive elimination leading to expected peri annulated product (4) with the generation of Ru(0) species followed by its oxidation to Ru(II) completes the cycle. The Ru(0) species is oxidized to the active Ru(II) catalyst in the presence of Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (Scheme 3).

Conclusions

differential and regioselective functionalization of C-H bonds of N-aryl substituted quinazolin-4-amines via oxidative annulation with internal alkynes. The ortho C-H bonds functionalization was favoured by Pd-catalyst in DMF, whereas catalyst in PEG. By using these two strategies we have synthesized а variety of indolguinazolines and pyridoquinazolines in good to moderate yields with high chemoselectivity. This catalyst-switched annulation is quite interesting and may become useful method for the construction of fused N-heterocycles.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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Catalyst and solvent switched divergent C–H functionalization: oxidative annulation of N-aryl substituted quinazolin-4-amine with alkynes

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Catalyst and solvent controlled *ortho/peri* site-selective oxidative annulation of C–H bonds of *N*-aryl substituted quinazolin-4-amines with internal alkynes.