

# Rhodium-catalysed substitutive arylation of *cis*-allylic diols with arylboroxines†

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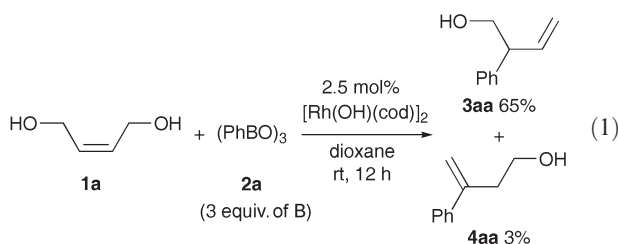
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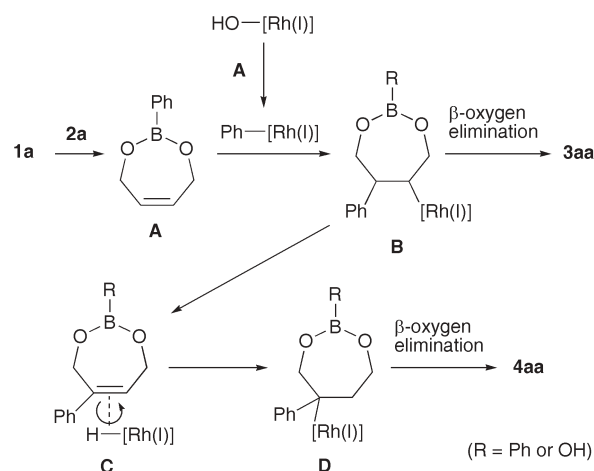
Substitutive arylation of *cis*-allylic diols occurs upon treatment with arylboroxines in the presence of a rhodium(I) catalyst; the reaction proceeds through the addition of an intermediate arylrhodium(I) species across the carbon–carbon double bond and subsequent  $\beta$ -oxygen elimination.

The rhodium-catalysed addition of organoborons to alkenes and alkynes has emerged as a powerful method for the construction of carbon–carbon bonds.<sup>1</sup> Although alkenes are generally less reactive than alkynes, activated examples, such as electron-deficient<sup>2</sup> and strained<sup>3</sup> alkenes, act as good acceptors of organorhodium(I) intermediates. In aqueous media, styrene derivatives also react with organoborons.<sup>4</sup> We have been trying to expand the scope of rhodium-catalysed addition and have found a new example of the alkene addition reaction. Herein, we report the rhodium-catalysed substitutive arylation of *cis*-allylic diols with arylboroxines.

A solution of *cis*-but-2-ene-1,4-diol (**1a**) and phenylboroxine (**2a**, 3.0 equiv. of **B**) in 1,4-dioxane (0.1 M) was stirred in the presence of [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol% Rh, cod = cycloocta-1,5-diene) at room temperature for 12 h. After chromatography, 2-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (**3aa**) was isolated in 65% yield, together with a small amount of 3-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (**4aa**, ca. 3%; eqn. 1). Other organoborons, like phenylboronic acid and its glycol ester, gave lower yields.



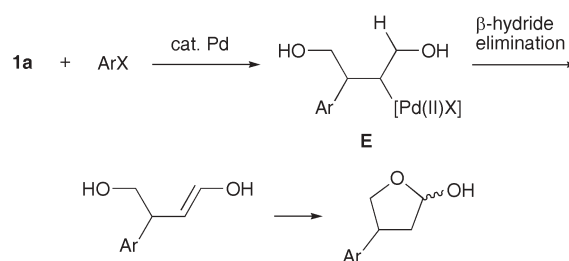
When **1a** (0.16 mmol) was mixed with **2a** (0.16 mmol, 3 equiv. of **B**) in 1,4-dioxane-*d*<sub>8</sub> (1 mL) in the absence of rhodium catalyst, the spontaneous formation of cyclic arylboronic ester **A**<sup>5</sup> via transesterification was observed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.<sup>6</sup> We assume the stepwise pathways depicted in Scheme 1 for the reaction of **1a**.<sup>7</sup> Initially, cyclic arylboronic ester **A** is formed *in situ* from **1a** and **2a**. Then, transmetalation of hydroxorhodium(I) with **A** generates a phenylrhodium(I) species.<sup>8</sup> The phenylrhodium(I) undergoes *syn*



Scheme 1 A plausible mechanism for the catalysed addition reaction.

1,2-addition across the carbon–carbon double bond of **A**,<sup>9</sup> giving the alkylrhodium(I) intermediate **B**. Subsequent  $\beta$ -oxygen elimination occurs to generate the major product **3aa**. Another pathway is also derived from **B** that leads to the minor product **4aa**.  $\beta$ -Hydride elimination and re-addition with the opposite regiochemistry gives the alkylrhodium(I) intermediate **D**. The following  $\beta$ -oxygen elimination affords minor product **4aa**. It is of note for **B** that  $\beta$ -oxygen elimination predominates over  $\beta$ -hydride elimination.<sup>3e,10</sup> This is in sharp contrast to the palladium-catalysed Heck-type reaction of **1a** with aryl halide, where organopalladium(II) intermediate **E** undergoes  $\beta$ -hydride elimination rather than  $\beta$ -oxygen elimination, leading to the formation of a 4-aryltetrahydrofuran-2-ol (Scheme 2).<sup>11,12</sup>

A control experiment was carried out using *trans*-but-2-ene-1,4-diol, which is unlikely to be transformed into the corresponding cyclic arylboronic ester. The reaction was sluggish at room temperature, giving only a trace amount of **3aa** after 12 h. In



Scheme 2 The palladium-catalysed Heck-type reaction of *cis*-allylic diol **1a** with aryl halide.

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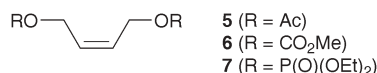
† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Experimental details and spectral data. See DOI: 10.1039/b612710j

**Table 1** Rhodium-catalysed substitutive arylation of *cis*-allylic diol **1a** with arylboroxines or an alkenylboroxine **2**<sup>a</sup>

Entry	<b>2</b> (R)	<b>3</b>	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>2b</b> (4-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	<b>3ab</b>	69 <sup>c</sup>
2	<b>2c</b> (4-F-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	<b>3ac</b>	52 <sup>c</sup>
3	<b>2d</b> (3-MeO-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	<b>3ad</b>	81
4	<b>2e</b> (3-Cl-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	<b>3ae</b>	77 <sup>c</sup>
5	<b>2f</b> (1-Naphthyl)	<b>3af</b>	81
6	<b>2g</b> (Ph-CH=CH-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>2</sub> -Ph)	<b>3ag</b>	22 <sup>c,d</sup>

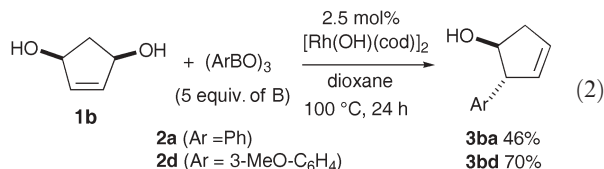
<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out with **1a** (0.55 mmol), **2** (0.55 mmol) and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol% Rh) in dioxane (5 mL) at rt for 12–24 h. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> 5 equiv. of B was used. <sup>d</sup> 60 °C.

addition, no reaction occurred when *cis*-non-2-en-1-ol was used as the substrate. These results indicate that formation of the cyclic arylboronic ester **A** facilitates the 1,2-addition of a phenylrhodium(I) species. The use of other substrates **5–7**, which were derived from *cis*-but-2-ene-1,4-diol, was also examined. However, these substrates failed to participate in the substitutive reaction.



A variety of arylboroxines and an alkenylboroxine **2** were subjected to the substitutive arylation of *cis*-allylic diol **1a** (Table 1).<sup>13,†</sup> Both electron-donating and -withdrawing aromatic substituents were suitably reactive (Table 1, entries 1–4). In the case of sterically bulkier 1-naphthylboroxine (**2f**), the corresponding product **3af** was obtained in 81% yield (Table 1, entry 5). However, alkenylboroxine **2g** produced compound **3ag** in only 22% yield (Table 1, entry 6).

We next examined the reaction with cyclic *cis*-allylic diol **1b**. When *cis*-cyclopent-4-ene-1,3-diol (**1b**) was treated with phenylboroxine (**2a**, 5.0 equiv. of B) at 100 °C for 24 h, *trans*-2-phenylcyclopent-3-en-1-ol (**3ba**, 46%) was obtained in a regio- and stereoselective manner (eqn. 2). The reaction of **1b** with 3-methoxyphenylboroxine (**2d**) gave the *trans*-isomer **3bd** stereoselectively in 70% yield. The *trans* stereochemistry of the arylated products can be explained by assuming that the *syn* 1,2-addition of an arylrhodium(I) species across a carbon–carbon double bond occurs from opposite sides of the hydroxyl groups and that β-oxygen elimination proceeds in an *anti* fashion.<sup>10a</sup>



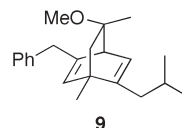
Since 2-aryl-3-en-1-ols are versatile synthons that can be further manipulated in a stereo- and chemoselective way, the asymmetric version of the substitutive arylation was briefly examined (Table 2). In the case of (*S*)-BINAP (**8**), which is highly effective for the rhodium-catalysed asymmetric addition of arylboronic acids to electron-deficient alkenes,<sup>2b</sup> both the yield and the enantioselectivity were modest (55% yield, 41% ee; Table 2, entry 1). The use of chiral diene ligand **9**, developed by Carreira *et al.*,<sup>14</sup> improved both the chemical yield and the enantioselectivity (68% yield, 83% ee;

**Table 2** Asymmetric arylative addition catalysed by a rhodium(I) complex<sup>a</sup>

Entry	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> (R)	Ligand	<b>3</b>	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	ee (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	<b>1a</b>	<b>2a</b> (Ph)	<b>8</b>	<b>3aa</b>	55	41
2	<b>1a</b>	<b>2a</b> (Ph)	<b>9</b>	<b>3aa</b>	68	83
3	<b>1a</b>	<b>2d</b> (3-MeO-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	<b>9</b>	<b>3ad</b>	62	53
4	<b>1a</b>	<b>2f</b> (1-Naphthyl)	<b>9</b>	<b>3af</b>	60 <sup>d,e</sup>	87
5	<b>1b</b>	<b>2d</b> (3-MeO-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	<b>9</b>	<b>3bd</b>	57 <sup>f</sup>	78

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out with **1** (0.55 mmol), **2** (0.92 mmol), [RhCl(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol% Rh), chiral ligand (5.5 mol%) and KOH (0.28 mmol) in dioxane (5 mL) at 40 °C for 2 d. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by a Chiralcel OD-H column. <sup>d</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 equiv.) was added. <sup>e</sup> 60 °C. <sup>f</sup> 100 °C.

Table 2, entry 2). The highest enantioselectivity was observed when 1-naphthylboroxine (**2f**) was used (87% ee; Table 2, entry 4). Analogous reaction conditions were applied to cyclic allylic diol **1b** to give **3bd** (78% ee; Table 2, entry 5).<sup>15</sup>



In summary, we have developed a rhodium-catalysed addition reaction of arylboroxines with *cis*-allylic diols, allowing the regio- and stereoselective formation of 2-aryl-3-en-1-ols.<sup>16</sup>

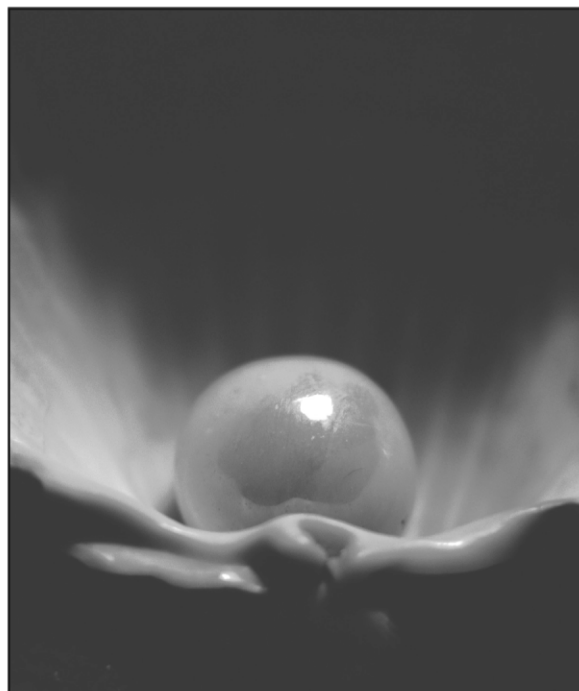
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## Notes and references

<sup>†</sup> *Representative procedure:* To an oven-dried, Ar-purged flask was added phenylboroxine (**2a**, 176.5 mg, 0.57 mmol, 3.0 equiv. of B) and [Rh(OH)(cod)]<sub>2</sub> (6.5 mg, 0.014 mmol, 5 mol% Rh). Then, a solution of substrate **1a** (48.9 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (5 mL) was added. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. An aqueous solution of 2 M NaOH (6 mL) was added and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (4 × 15 mL). The combined extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography (hexane : ethyl acetate = 5 : 3) to give the product **3aa** (53.8 mg, 0.36 mmol) in 65% yield.

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