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# Cationic Pd(II)-catalyzed arylative cyclization of 1,6-enynes with arylboronic acids



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### ABSTRACT

A cationic Pd(II)-catalyzed redox neutral arylative cyclization of enynes by using  $\beta$ -acetoxy elimination as the quenching step has been developed. The reaction offers an efficient method to access a variety of carbocycles and *N*-heterocycles bearing an exocyclic double bond.

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#### Introduction

Transition-metal-catalyzed tandem reactions are powerful methods for the construction of structurally complex frameworks from relatively simple materials and have attracted great scientific interest from chemists.<sup>1</sup> Among which, enyne coupling has been achieved with a wide range of transition-metal complexes, which represents a versatile approach to a variety of products by a simple manipulation.<sup>2,3</sup> With our interests in developing transition metal-catalyzed tandem reactions, here we report our recent progress on cationic palladium-catalyzed redox neutral 1,6-enyne couplings.

In our previous work, we reported a cationic Pd(II)-catalyzed intramolecular arylative alkyne- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl coupling (Scheme 1, a).<sup>4</sup> In the course of the reaction, carbopalladation of the alkyne gives vinylpalladium intermediate, which undergoes intramolecular alkene insertion to form a cyclic alkylpalladium intermediate. Protonolysis of the newly formed carbon-palladium bond would yield the product and regenerate the Pd(II) catalytic species. It is worth noting that protonolysis of the carbon-palladium bond, rather than  $\beta$ -H elimination, occurred preferentially in the quenching step for the process, which may be due to the strong Lewis acidity of the cationic palladium complex.<sup>5</sup> Inspired by above study, we are wondering if the redox neutral enyne cyclization is possible when the newly formed C—Pd bond is

\* Corresponding authors. E-mail addresses: xlhan@sioc.ac.cn (X. Han), xylu@sioc.ac.cn (X. Lu). quenched by  $\beta$ -heteroatom elimination (Scheme 1, b). Such type of arylative cyclization of 1,6-enynes was previously reported by the Murakami group,<sup>6</sup> where Rh(I) was used as the catalyst to achieve different carbocycles. Zhang group also described a Pd (0)-catalyzed 1,6-enyne arylative cyclization through a Pd(0)/Pd (II) redox process, where the reaction was proposed to go through a 1,6-enyne cyclization-arylation cascade process via a  $\pi$ -allylpalladium intermediate.<sup>7</sup>

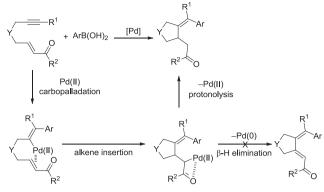
Our studies began with the arylative cyclization of 1,6-enyne 1a with phenylboronic acid 2a (Table 1). Preliminary studies showed that the desired arylative cyclization product 3aa was isolated in 25% yield in toluene at 80 °C when cationic palladium complex [Pd(dppp)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>](OTf)<sub>2</sub> was used as the catalyst (Table 1, entry 1). Then several additives were examined. In the presence of  $K_2CO_3$ , the yield was raised to 82% (Table 1, entry 2). When K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> was used, the yield decreased significantly (Table 1, entry 3). KF gave a similar result as K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (Table 1, entry 4). Next, cationic palladium catalysts were screened. A dramatically decreased yield was obtained when the reaction was catalyzed by [Pd  $(dppe)(H_2O)_2](OTf)_2$  (43% yield, Table 1, entry 5). However, the reaction afforded **3aa** in a higher yield with  $[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2]$  $(BF_4)_2$  as the catalyst (91% yield, Table 1, entry 6). In addition to the OAc group, other leaving groups were tested. Ester 1b or carbonate 1c can also react with phenylboronic acid 2a successfully to produce **3aa** in good yields (Table 1, entries 7 and 8). When the leaving group was a methoxy (1d) or hydroxy (1e),<sup>8</sup> the reaction was very slow and gave low yields of the product



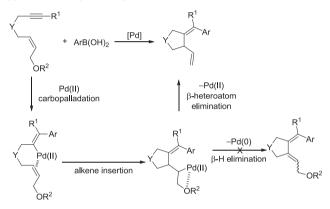








(b) This work: carbopalladation/β-heteroatom elimination cascade reaction



Scheme 1. Cationic Pd(II)-catalyzed redox neutral enyne coupling reaction.

(Table 1, entries 9 and 10). These results suggest that OAc is the best leaving group among the screened groups for this reaction and the elimination of which would be assisted by the intramolec-

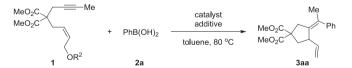
## Table 1Reaction condition optimization.<sup>a</sup>

ular coordination with palladium.<sup>9</sup> Thus, enyne **1** (0.2 mmol), arylboronic acid **2** (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv),  $[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2$  (0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), KF (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) and toluene (1 mL) at 80 °C were chosen as the optimized conditions.

With optimal reaction conditions in hand, we studied the scope of the arylative cyclization of a variety of arylboronic acids and enynes bearing acetoxy as the leaving group and the results were summarized in Table 2. The catalytic process worked well with a sterically and electronically diverse array of arylboronic acids to give the corresponding products 3aa-3ag in moderate to good yields (Table 2, entries 1-7). Arylboronic acids with electrondonating groups (e.g. 2b, 2c and 2d) gave lower yields than phenylboronic acid 2a (Table 2, entries 2-4). Arylboronic acids with halogen substituents were compatible in this reaction, offering opportunities for further transformations (Table 2, entries 5 and 6). Then, envnes bearing other substituents on the alkyne were used to react with phenylboronic acid 2a. Slightly lower yields were obtained with  $\mathbf{1f}(\mathbb{R}^1 = n - \Pr)$  and  $\mathbf{1g}(\mathbb{R}^1 = \Pr)(\text{Table 2}, \text{entries})$ 8 and 9). The stereochemistry of the exocyclic double bond in the products was assigned as *E* as confirmed by NOESY spectra of **3aa** (See the Supporting Information). In contrast to the Rh(I)-catalyzed enyne cyclization, the reaction of aza-1,6-enyne 1h, bearing a sulfonamide group in the skeleton, gave the product **3ha** in a very good yield (93%, Table 2, entry 10).<sup>10</sup> While the arylative cyclization of enyne Z-1a was very efficient (91% yield, Table 2, entry 1), the reaction of enyne E-1a was less effective under the same reaction conditions (47% yield, Table 2, entry 11). The decent yield might be due to the weaker coordinating ability of (E)-olefins compared to (*Z*)-olefins.<sup>11</sup>

Next, the asymmetric version of this arylative cyclization reaction was studied by using enyne **1a** and phenylboronic acid **2a** as substrates (Scheme 2). Our preliminary results showed that product **3aa** can be obtained in a high *ee* value (97%) under the catalysis of Pd(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>4</sub>(BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>/(*R*)-BINAP, whereas the yield was low.

A possible mechanism for the cationic Pd(II)-catalyzed arylative enyne cyclization is proposed in Scheme 3. The catalytic cycle is initiated by transmetalation between the cationic palladium(II) complex **A** and arylboronic acids **2** to form the arylpalladium(II)



Entry	1	Catalyst	Additive	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	<b>1a</b> , $R^2 = Ac$	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](OTf)_2$	-	24	25
2	1a	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](OTf)_2$	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	3	82
3	1a	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](OTf)_2$	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	24	52
4	1a	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](OTf)_2$	KF	3	84
5	1a	$[Pd(dppe)(H_2O)_2](OTf)_2$	KF	24	43
6	1a	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2$	KF	3	91
7	<b>1b</b> , R <sup>2</sup> = Bz	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2$	KF	5	80
8	<b>1c</b> , $R^2 = CO_2Me$	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2$	KF	5	84
9	<b>1d</b> , R <sup>2</sup> = Me	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2$	KF	24	8
10	<b>1e</b> , R <sup>2</sup> = H	$[Pd(dppp)(H_2O)_2](BF_4)_2$	KF	24	26

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2 a** (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), catalyst (0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), additive (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), toluene (1 mL), 80 °C. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

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