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Synthesis of 2-substituted benzofuran derivatives by the palladium-catalyzed intermolecular coupling of 2-fluoroallylic acetates with phenols

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ABSTRACT

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We investigated the intermolecular coupling reaction of 2-fluoroallylic acetates with simple phenols by the $[Pd(C_3H_5)Cl]_2$, DPPF, and KHMDS at 100 °C for 16 h, and succeeded in obtaining 2-substituted benzofuran derivatives in good to high yield through the C-F bond activation and intermolecular cyclization.

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Benzofuran is an important scaffold in the several biologically active organic compounds, and the development of an efficient method to construct it and its derivatives is one of the major topics in organic synthesis. Although several methods have been reported to synthesis benzofuran derivatives involving a transition metal catalyzed reaction, most of them are achieved by the reaction of prefunctionalized substrates,²⁻⁴ while there are only limited examples of the construction of benzofuran derivatives by intermolecular coupling using simple phenols and a sequential cyclization reaction. 5 To the best our knowledge, β keto esters, alkynes, or alkenes were used as the coupling partner for the transition metal catalyzed construction of benzofuran derivatives with simple phenols. For example, Li reported the iron-catalyzed reaction of phenols and β -keto esters, 5a and Wang reported the palladium-catalyzed construction of benzofuran derivatives from phoneols and bromoalkynes. b More recently, the palladium- or copper-catalyzed reaction of phenols with 1,2-diarylethynes was developed by Sahoo and Jiang. d Furthermore, Maiti discovered the palladium-catalyzed reaction of phenols and alkenes.^{5e} On the other hand, we have studied the palladium-catalyzed double substitution of 2-fluoroallylic esters,⁶ and reported the double etherification with phenols.6b During the course of these studies, we found that the other palladiumcatalyzed conditions provide the 2-benzyl benzofuran derivatives, therefore, we now report the palladium-catalyzed construction of 2-substituted benzofuran derivatives from phenols and 2-fluoroallylic esters.

As we previously reported, 6b the Pd(PPh3)4 catalyzed reaction of 2-fluoroallylic acetate (1a) with phenol (2a) selectively afforded the doubly etherified product 3aa in good yield (Table 1, entry 1). However, when the reaction was conducted using [Pd(C₃H₅)(cod)]BF₄/PPh₃, we observed the formation of a small amount of the benzofuran derivative 4aa (entry 2). Based on this initial observation, we examined other reaction conditions to realize the selective formation of 4aa in high yield. Fortunately, we found that the DPPP coordinated palladium catalyst effectively allowed the intended reaction, and changing the solvent from toluene to dioxane also increased the yield of 4aa to a 72% NMR yield without any formation of 3aa (entries 3 and 4). Furthermore, we confirmed that KHMDS was a better base than Cs₂CO₃ (entry 5), and a higher NMR yield was attained when [Pd(C₃H₅)Cl]₂ was used as the palladium precatalyst (entries 6-9). Finally, the highest yield (92% NMR yield, 89% isolated yield) was obtained when the reaction was conducted with an excess amount of phenol (entry 10).

With the optimal conditions in hand, we examined the palladium-catalyzed reaction of the 2-fluorocinnamyl acetates $\bf 1a$ with several phenols, and results are summarized in Table 2. The reaction of $\bf 1a$ with p-cresol ($\bf 2b$) provided the intended benzofuran derivative $\bf 4ab$ in 72% isolated yield (Table 2, entry 1), and the reactions with phenols $\bf 2c$ and $\bf 2d$ also afforded $\bf 4ac$ and $\bf 4ad$ in acceptable yields (entries 2 and 3). The reaction with m-cresol ($\bf 2e$) formed a product as a mixture of two regioisomers, but we confirmed that the major product was $\bf 4ae$ (entry 4). This result indicated that the cyclization occurred at the sterically less

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