

A Convenient Access to Various Substituted Spiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]s^[‡]

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Keywords: Amides / Nitrogen heterocycles / Michael addition / Buchwald–Hartwig amination / Suzuki coupling / Cyclopropanes / Spiro compounds

Michael additions of carboxamides **2a–d** under basic conditions onto methyl 2-chloro-2-cyclopropylideneacetate (**1**) with subsequent ring closure furnished the 4-spirocyclopropanated methyl oxazolinecarboxylates **3a–d** (51–81 % yields), from which the corresponding free carboxylic acids **4a–d** were obtained by hydrolysis in excellent yield (89–93 %). Coupling reactions of **4a–d** with different *o*-hydroxyaniline derivatives in the presence of HOAt/EDC and 2,4,6-collidine gave the anilides **5** in good to very good yields (55–92 %). The latter under Mitsunobu reaction conditions (Ph₃P/DEAD)

furnished the benzoxazole derivatives **6** (81–88 %). The bromine substituent in the *N*-methylated 4-spirocyclopropanated 2-(bromophenyl)oxazoline-5-carboxanilides **8c,d** were aminated with various secondary amines under Buchwald–Hartwig reaction conditions to give the 2-(aminophenyl)-oxazolinecarboxanilides **9** (12–90 %). Suzuki cross-couplings of **8c** with arene- and hetareneboronic acids provided the oxazolines with 2-biaryl substituents **10–13** (65–90 %). (© Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA, 69451 Weinheim, Germany, 2008)

Introduction

As has recently been demonstrated, the highly electrophilic Michael acceptor methyl 2-chloro-2-cyclopropylideneacetate (**1**)^[1–3] in the presence of sodium hydride undergoes addition of arenecarboxamides with subsequent intramolecular nucleophilic substitution of the chlorine atom to yield methyl 2'-arylspiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxylates **3**.^[4] The latter essentially are protected cyclic derivatives of β-(*N*-acylamino)-α-hydroxycarboxylic acids and have been employed as such to prepare various analogues of Taxol (**4**).^[5,6] yet in more general terms they can be regarded as mimics of aryl-substituted hetarenes. Since a large number of biologically active compounds are composites of heterocycles including oxazolines^[7] and heterosubstituted arenes, we set out to develop a set of methods to further diversify the 4-spirocyclopropanated 2-aryl-oxazolinecarboxylates **3** in order to make a library of potentially biologically active derivatives accessible, since one such compound had previously exhibited an interesting insecticidal activity. The fact that a spirocyclopropanated an-

alogue of Imidacloprid[®] is virtually as potent an insecticide as the commercial Imidacloprid itself,^[8] made this a reasonable endeavor.

Results and Discussion

By employing the previously published procedure,^[4] methyl 2-chloro-2-cyclopropylideneacetate (**1**)^[1,2] in acetonitrile upon reaction with benzamide (**2a**) in the presence of sodium hydride gave methyl 2'-phenylspiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5-carboxylate (**3a**) in 54 % isolated yield after column chromatography. Analogously, 4-(trifluoromethyl)- as well as 4-bromo- and 3-bromobenzamide (**2b–d**) furnished the corresponding oxazolinecarboxylates **3b–d** in yields ranging from 51 to 81 % (Scheme 1 and Table 1). The bromobenzamides **2c,d** were specifically chosen in order to provide an opportunity for further derivatization of the products **3c** and **3d** by cross-coupling reactions. The hydrolyses of the esters **3a–d** to the corresponding oxazolinecarboxylic acids **4a–d** were brought about more efficiently than previously reported by treatment with 1 *N* aqueous sodium hydroxide in methanol/tetrahydrofuran (4:1). Thus, the free carboxylic acids were isolated after purification by column chromatography in 89–93 % yield.

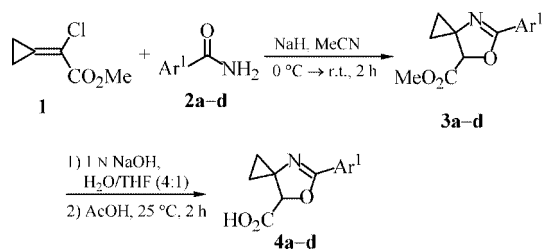
With the 5-(benzoxazolyl)oxazoline derivatives as targets in mind, conversion of the oxazolinecarboxylic acids to the corresponding amides with substituted *o*-hydroxyanilines were intended. First attempts were made with the 3'-phenylspiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxylic acid (**4a**) and 5-chloro-2-hydroxyaniline by employing dicyclohexyl-

[‡] Cyclopropyl Building Blocks for Organic Synthesis, 148. Part 147: B. Yücel, M. Noltemeyer, A. de Meijere, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 1072–1078. Part 146: J. Revuelta, S. Cicchi, A. de Meijere, A. Brandi, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 1085–1091.

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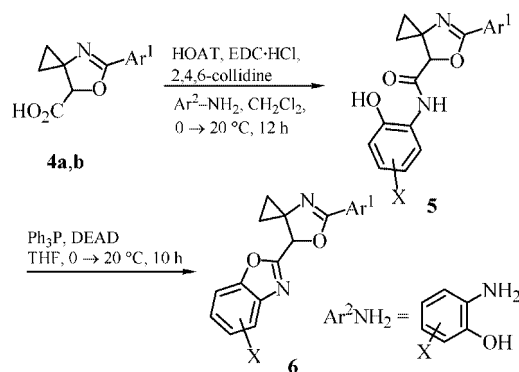


Scheme 1. 2'-Arylspro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]carboxylic acids **4a–d** from arenecarboxamides and methyl 2-chloro-2-cyclopropylideneacetate (**1**). For details see Table 1.

Table 1. Methyl 2'-arylspro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxylates **3a–d** and the corresponding oxazolinecarboxylic acids **4a–d** from **1** (see Scheme 1).

Amide	Ar ¹	Product	Yield (%)	Product	Yield (%)
2a	Ph	3a	54	4a	89
2b	4-F ₃ CC ₆ H ₄	3b	81	4b	93
2c	4-BrC ₆ H ₄	3c	51	4c	91
2d	3-BrC ₆ H ₄	3d	64	4d	90

carbodiimide (DCC) and 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP) in dichloromethane. However, after 18 h at 20 °C, the unchanged starting materials were completely recovered, and the same result was achieved with DCC and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) in dichloromethane.^[9] An attempted conversion of the carboxylic acid **4a** to the acyl chloride by treatment with thionyl chloride and subsequent reaction with the aniline led to complete decomposition of the starting material **4a**. Eventually, the amide coupling succeeded in the presence of 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole (HOAt), *N*-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-*N'*-ethylcarbodiimide (EDC) and 2,4,6-collidine to furnish the oxazolinecarboxanilide **5aa** in 92% yield. Under these conditions, the reactions of the 2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]oxazolinecarboxylic acid **4b** with different mono- and disubstituted *o*-hydroxyanilines gave the corresponding anilides **5ba**, **5bb**, **5bc**, **5bd** in 55–85% yield (Scheme 2, Table 2).



Scheme 2. Amide coupling of oxazolinecarboxylic acids **4a,b** with *o*-hydroxyanilines followed by dehydrative cyclization to yield 5-(benzoxazolylo)oxazoline derivatives **6**. For details see Table 2.

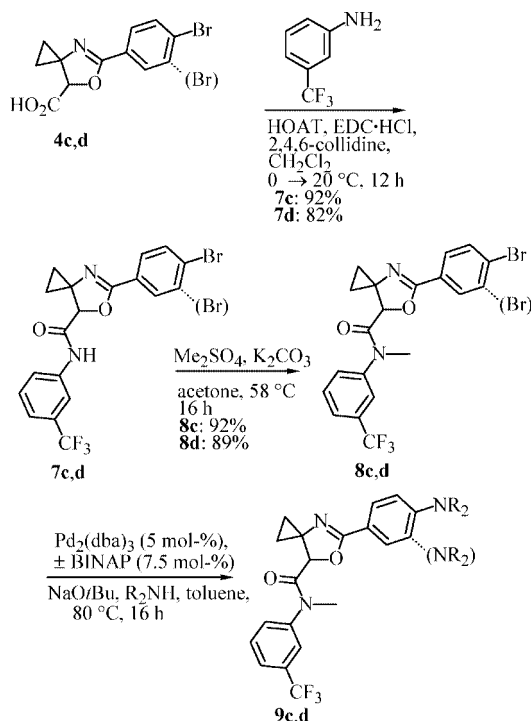
Table 2. Amide coupling of oxazolinecarboxylic acids **4a,b** with *o*-hydroxyanilines and dehydrative cyclization of the products to 5-(benzoxazolylo)oxazoline derivatives **6** (see Scheme 2).

4	Ar ¹	X in Ar ² NH ₂	Product	Yield (%)	Product	Yield (%)
4a	Ph	5-Cl	5aa	92	6aa	83
4b	4-F ₃ CC ₆ H ₄	5-Cl	5ba	85	6ba	85
4b	4-F ₃ CC ₆ H ₄	5-F ₃ CO	5bb	55	6bb	81
4b	4-F ₃ CC ₆ H ₄	3,5-Cl ₂	5bc	79	6bc	88
4b	4-F ₃ CC ₆ H ₄	5-F ₃ C	5bd	78	6bd	81

An attempted dehydrative cyclization of **5aa** with phosphorus pentoxide in carbon tetrachloride at 80 °C also left the starting material unchanged, and with pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (PPTs) in dichloroethane after 12 h at 85 °C only a small amount (12%) of the product **6aa** was isolated. The desired product **6aa** was also not observed when the same reaction was carried out in toluene by employing a Dean–Stark trap. Finally, under Mitsunobu conditions^[10] (Ph₃P, DEAD), the product **6aa** was formed from **5aa** in 83% isolable yield. Analogously, the other anilides **5** were converted into the corresponding (benzoxazolylo)oxazolines **6ba**, **6bb**, **6bc**, **6bd** in 81–88% yield (Scheme 2, Table 2).

The spiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxylic acids **4c,d** were further diversified with heteroatom-containing substituents by conversion to 3-(trifluoromethyl)anilides **7c,d** under the same conditions as employed for **4a,b**, subsequent *N*-methylation with dimethyl sulfate and final Buchwald–Hartwig amination^[11,12] of the *N*-methylanilides **8c,d** with various secondary amines. An attempted amide coupling of the 4-bromophenyl derivative **4c** with *N*-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)aniline in the presence of HOAt, EDC·HCl and 2,4,6-collidine did not give any of the desired product, but with 3-(trifluoromethyl)aniline under the same reaction conditions the anilide **7c** was obtained in 92% yield, and methylation with dimethyl sulfate in the presence of potassium carbonate furnished the desired *N*-methyl derivative **8c** as the precursor for the envisioned Pd-catalyzed aminations. Analogously, the (3-bromophenyl)oxazolinecarboxanilide **8d** was prepared in 73% overall yield. By employing well-established conditions [Pd₂(dba)₃, BINAP, NaOtBu], the cross coupling of **8c** with morpholine in toluene furnished the product **9ca** in 71% yield within 16 h. The conditions as optimized with respect to the amount of catalyst called for 2 mol-% of Pd₂(dba)₃ and 3 mol-% of (±)-BINAP to give best yields. The same oxazoline **9c** with pyrrolidine under these conditions gave the product **9cb** in 90% yield, but the *N*-methyl- and *N*-benzylpiperazine derivatives **9cc** and **9cd** were obtained in only 59 and 62%, respectively (Scheme 3 and Table 3).

The cross coupling of **8c** with the bicyclic secondary amine 3,3-dibenzyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane^[13] also proceeded smoothly to afford the product **9ce** in 67% yield. The same five amines were also coupled with the 3-bromophenyl derivative **8d** to give the corresponding 2-(3-aminophenyl)oxazolinecarboxamides **9da–9de**; however, 5 mol-% of Pd₂(dba)₃ and 7.5 mol-% of (±)-BINAP had to be



Scheme 3. *N*-Methyl-*N*-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]anilides **7c,d** from 2'-(bromophenyl)spiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxylic acids **4c,d** and subsequent Buchwald–Hartwig amination of the bromophenyl groups in the *N*-methylanilides **8c,d** with various secondary amines. For details see Table 3.

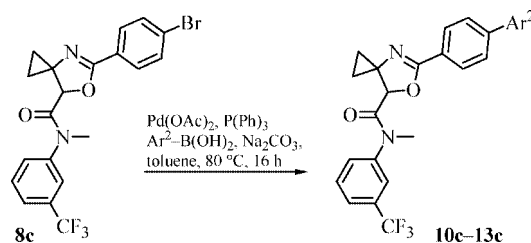
Table 3. Buchwald–Hartwig aminations of the bromophenyl substituents in the *N*-methyl-*N*-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]spiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxamides **8c,d** (see Scheme 3).

Starting material 8	R ₂ NH	Product 9	Yield (%)
8c	morpholine	9ca	71
8c	pyrrolidine	9cb	90
8c	<i>N</i> -methylpiperazine	9cc	59
8c	<i>N</i> -benzylpiperazine	9cd	62
8c	3,3-dibenzyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane	9ce	67
8d	morpholine	9da	82
8d	pyrrolidine	9db	73
8d	<i>N</i> -methylpiperazine	9dc	13
8d	<i>N</i> -benzylpiperazine	9dd	12
8d	3,3-dibenzyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane	9de	81

used in these cases. In spite of that, the yields of the *N*-benzyl-*N*-methylpiperazines were rather poor (13 and 12 %, respectively), and the reactions did not go to completion even after 40 h (Scheme 3 and Table 3).

The possibility to further diversify the library of 2'-arylspiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxanilides **7** by palladium-catalyzed cross coupling with areneboronic acids (Suzuki–Miyaura coupling)^[14] was also tested. After several conditions had been tried, it was found that the coupling of **8c** with benzenboronic acid required 10 mol-% of Pd(OAc)₂ and 40 mol-% of Ph₃P to go to completion within 16 h, and the product **10c** could be isolated in 90 % yield. [*p*-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]boronic acid under the same reaction conditions gave the product **11c** in 84 % yield. 3-

Thienyl- and 2-naphthylboronic acid also formed the products **12c** and **13c** in 65 and 85 % yield, respectively (Scheme 4 and Table 4).



Scheme 4. Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of (bromophenyl)oxazoline-carboxanilide **8c**. For details see Table 4.

Table 4. 2'-Biarylspiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxanilides **10c–13c** by Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of the 2-(bromophenyl)-oxazolinecarboxamide derivative **8c** (see Scheme 4).

Starting material	Ar ² in Ar ² B(OH) ₂	Product	Yield (%)
8c	Ph	10c	90
8c	4-F ₃ COC ₆ H ₄	11c	80
8c	3-thienyl	12c	65
8c	2-naphthyl	13c	85

Experimental Section

General Remarks: All reagents were used as purchased without further purification. All reactions in organic solvents were carried out by using standard Schlenk techniques under dry nitrogen. The solvents were purified and dried prior to use according to conventional methods; tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene were freshly distilled from sodium/benzophenone. Solvents and reagents are abbreviated as follows: CH₂Cl₂ = dichloromethane, EtOAc = ethyl acetate, MeOH = methanol, C₅H₁₂ = pentane, Et₂O = diethyl ether, DEAD = diethyl azodicarboxylate, DCC = *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, EDC = *N*-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-*N'*-ethylcarbodiimide, HOBt = 1-hydroxybenzotriazole, HOAt = 1-hydroxy-7-aza-benzotriazole. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature with either Bruker AM 250 or Varian 200 or 300 MHz instruments. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to residual resonances of solvents (¹H: δ = 7.26 ppm for CDCl₃ and δ = 3.31 ppm for CD₃OD; ¹³C: δ = 77.0 ppm for CDCl₃, and δ = 49.0 ppm for CD₃OD). Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz. Multiplicities of signals are described as follows: br. = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, dt = doublet of triplets. The multiplicities of signals were determined by the DEPT technique: DEPT: + = primary (CH₃) or tertiary (CH) (positive DEPT signal), – = secondary (CH₂) (negative DEPT signal), C_{quat} = quaternary C atoms. *J* values in ¹³C NMR spectra refer to ¹³C,¹⁹F couplings. “cPr” refers to cyclopropyl. IR: Bruker IFS 66. MS: Finnigan MAT 95, 70 eV. Chromatographic separations were carried out on Merck silica gel 60 (0.063–0.200 mm, 70–230 mesh ASTM). The dimensions of the columns are given in cm as “diameter × height of the silica gel column”. TLC: Macherey–Nagel, ready-to-use TLC plates Alugram® Sil G/UV₂₅₄. Detection under UV light at 254 nm. Melting points (uncorrected) were determined in capillaries with a Büchi 510 apparatus. Elemental analyses: Mikroanalytisches Laboratorium des Instituts für Organische und Biomolekulare Chemie der Universität Göttingen.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Methyl 2'-Arylspiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]-5'-carboxylates 3 (GP1): A solution of methyl 2-chloro-2-cyclopropylideneacetate (**1**)^[1,2] and the respective carboxamide (1 equiv.) in anhydrous acetonitrile was treated with 1 equiv. of NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil) at 0 °C. The resulting suspension was subsequently stirred at this temperature for 1 h and at 20 °C for an additional 1 h. After removal of the solvent, the pale yellow residue was taken up with diethyl ether (300 mL) and the solution washed with water (100 mL). The aq. layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 100 mL), and the combined organic phases were dried with MgSO₄. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography.

Methyl 5-Phenyl-6-oxa-4-azaspiro[2.4]hept-4-ene-7-carboxylate (3a): The crude product obtained from **1** (2.50 g, 17.0 mmol), benzamide (**2a**, 5.20 g, 17.0 mmol) and NaH (595 mg, 17.0 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (50 mL) according to GP1 was purified by column chromatography (*R_f* = 0.38; pentane/Et₂O, 4:1; 3 × 10 cm) to yield 2.2 g (54%) of **3a** as a colorless solid, m.p. 48 °C. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2948, 1732, 1449, 1284, 1057, 694 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.91–1.08 (m, 2 H, cPr-H), 1.18–1.27 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 1.32–1.42 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 3.80 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 4.93 (s, 1 H, CH), 7.39–7.54 (m, 3 H, aryl-H), 7.91–7.99 (m, 2 H, aryl-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, APT): δ = 10.4 (–, cPr-C), 14.7 (–, cPr-C), 52.3 (+, CH₃), 53.3 (–, cPr-C), 79.7 (+, CH-C), 127.0 (–, aryl-C), 128.0 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 128.4 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 131.5 (+, aryl-C), 163.5 (–, CN-C), 169.5 (–, CO-C) ppm. MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 231 (35) [M⁺], 172 (100) [M⁺ – CO₂Me], 144 (60), 105 (26).

General Procedure for the Hydrolysis of Methyl Spiro[cyclopropane-1,4'-oxazoline]carboxylates 3 (GP2): Aq. NaOH (1 N, 5 equiv.) was added to a solution of the respective methyl oxazolinecarboxylate **3** (1 equiv.) in MeOH/THF (4:1) at room temperature. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 min, then glacial AcOH (10 equiv.) was added, the mixture stirred for an additional 15 min, and the solvent evaporated in vacuo. The residue was filtered through a pad of SiO₂ gel (Et₂O/AcOH, 50:1) and the product crystallized from ether/hexane.

5-Phenyl-6-oxa-4-azaspiro[2.4]hept-4-ene-7-carboxylic Acid (4a): From **3a** (3.40 g, 14.7 mmol), NaOH (2.96 g, 74 mmol) and AcOH (8.80 g, 147 mmol) in MeOH/THF (200 mL) according to GP2 (*R_f* = 0.40; Et₂O/AcOH, 50:1), 5.10 g (93%) of **4a** was obtained as a colorless solid, m.p. 182 °C. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3061, 3009, 1717, 1638, 1457, 1364, 1211, 1069, 735 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CD₃OD): δ = 0.95–1.03 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 1.05–1.34 (m, 3 H, cPr-H), 4.99 (s, 1 H, CH), 7.40–7.59 (m, 3 H, aryl-H), 7.86–7.98 (m, 2 H, aryl-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz, CD₃OD, DEPT): δ = 11.0 (–, cPr-C), 15.3 (–, cPr-C), 54.0 (C_{quat.}, cPr-C), 81.3 (+, CH-C), 128.3 (C_{quat.}, aryl-C), 129.3 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 129.9 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 133.3 (+, aryl-C), 166.2 (–, CN-C), 172.4 (–, CO-C) ppm. MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 217 (48) [M⁺], 172 (100) [M⁺ – CO₂H], 144 (57), 104 (28).

General Procedure for the Preparation of Oxazolinecarboxanilides 5 and 7 (GP3): To an ice-cold solution of the respective oxazolinecarboxylic acid **4** (1 equiv.) and HOAt (1.2 equiv.) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ was added EDC·HCl (1.5 equiv.) in one portion, the mixture was stirred for 15 min, then 2,4,6-collidine (2.0 equiv.) and the respective aniline (1.3 equiv.) were added. The cooling bath was removed, and the resulting pale yellow reaction mixture was stirred at 20 °C for 12 h and filtered through a pad of silica gel. The crude product was purified by column chromatography.

N-(5-Chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-6-oxa-4-azaspiro[2.4]hept-4-ene-7-carboxamide (5aa): The crude product obtained from **4a**

(185 mg, 0.85 mmol), HOAt (139 mg, 1.02 mmol), EDC·HCl (244 mg, 1.27 mmol), 2,4,6-collidine (206 mg, 1.70 mmol) and 5-chloro-2-hydroxyaniline (146 mg, 1.1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) according to GP3 was purified by column chromatography (*R_f* = 0.25; pentane/Et₂O, 1:1) to yield 268 mg (92%) of **5aa** as a colorless solid, m.p. 211 °C. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3381, 3052, 1668, 1558, 1431, 1339, 1195, 1033 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.96–1.18 (m, 2 H, cPr-H), 1.34–1.50 (m, 2 H, cPr-H), 5.01 (s, 1 H, CH), 6.87–6.92 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.05 (dd, ³*J* = 8.2, ⁴*J* = 2.5 Hz, 1 H, aryl-H), 7.42–7.58 (m, 3 H, aryl-H), 7.77 (s, 1 H, aryl-H), 7.96–8.00 (m, 2 H, aryl-H), 8.27 (br. s, 1 H, NH) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, APT): δ = 10.6 (–, cPr-C), 14.5 (–, cPr-C), 53.7 (–, cPr-C), 80.2 (+, CH-C), 120.1 (+, aryl-C), 121.9 (+, aryl-C), 125.5 (–, aryl-C), 126.6 (–, aryl-C), 127.0 (+, aryl-C), 127.9 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 128.7 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 131.9 (+, aryl-C), 146.8 (–, aryl-C), 161.5 (–, CN-C), 168.2 (–, CO-C) ppm. MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 344/342 (6/20) [M⁺], 200 (55), 173 (100), 172 (58), 105 (54). C₁₈H₁₅ClN₂O₃ (342.8): calcd. C 63.07, H 4.41, N 8.17; found C 63.32, H 4.18, N 8.02.

General Procedure (GP4) for the Preparation of (Benzoxazolyl)-oxazolines 6: A solution of DEAD (2.2 equiv.) was added dropwise to a solution of the respective anilide **5** (1 equiv.) and Ph₃P (2.2 equiv.) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) in an ice bath, and the mixture was stirred at 20 °C for 10 h. To the reaction mixture were added Et₂O (25 mL) and H₂O (80 mL), and the organic layer was separated. The aq. layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 25 mL), the combined ethereal layers were dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated, and the residue was purified by column chromatography to yield the corresponding benzoxazoles.

5-Chloro-2-(5-phenyl-6-oxa-4-azaspiro[2.4]hept-4-en-7-yl)benzoxazole (6aa): The crude product obtained from **5aa** (103 mg, 0.3 mmol), Ph₃P (173 mg, 0.66 mmol) and DEAD (115 mg, 0.66 mmol) according to GP4 was purified by column chromatography (*R_f* = 0.35; pentane/Et₂O, 5:1) to yield 83 mg (85%) of **6aa** as a colorless solid, m.p. 129 °C. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3077, 2971, 1653, 1569, 1427, 1335, 1293, 1078, 698 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.54–0.63 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 0.98–1.06 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 1.18–1.28 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 1.36–1.45 (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 5.70 (s, 1 H, CH), 7.28–7.39 (m, 1 H, aryl-H), 7.40–7.57 (m, 4 H, aryl-H), 7.69 (s, 1 H, aryl-H), 7.95–8.02 (m, 2 H, aryl-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, APT): δ = 11.1 (–, cPr-C), 14.7 (–, cPr-C), 54.2 (–, cPr-C), 77.8 (+, CH-C), 111.9 (+, aryl-C), 120.4 (+, aryl-C), 126.1 (+, aryl-C), 126.8 (–, aryl-C), 128.1 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 128.5 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 130.2 (–, aryl-C), 131.6 (+, aryl-C), 141.5 (–, aryl-C), 149.5 (–, aryl-C), 163.2 (–, CN-C), 163.7 (–, CN-C) ppm. MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 325/323 (2/8) [M⁺], 172 (16), 155 (100), 105 (18), 91 (82). C₁₈H₁₃ClN₂O₂ (324.8): calcd. C 66.57, H 4.03, N 8.63; found C 66.58, H 3.84, N 8.55.

General Procedure (GP5) for the Buchwald–Hartwig Amination of (Bromophenyl)oxazolinecarboxanilides 8: An oven-dried Schlenk flask purged with nitrogen, was charged with Pd₂(dba)₃ and (±)-BINAP in toluene (5 mL). The mixture was heated at 80 °C with stirring for 5 min to dissolve the BINAP. After cooling, the respective (bromophenyl)oxazolinecarboxanilide **8** (1 equiv.), the respective secondary amine (1.5 equiv.), and NaOtBu (1.5 equiv.) were added, and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, it was diluted with Et₂O (25 mL), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography.

N-Methyl-5-[4-(morpholin-4-yl)phenyl]-N-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-6-oxa-4-azaspiro[2.4]hept-4-ene-7-carboxamide (9ca): The crude product obtained from **8c** (90.6 mg, 0.20 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (3.65 mg), (±)-BINAP (3.74 mg), morpholine (26.0 mg,

0.30 mmol) and NaOtBu (28.8 mg, 0.30 mmol) according to GP5 was purified by column chromatography ($R_f = 0.25$; Et₂O) to yield 65 mg (71%) of **9ca** which crystallized from Et₂O at 0 °C as a colorless solid, m.p. 159–160 °C. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu} = 3084, 2969, 2864, 1655, 1607, 1521, 1335, 1228, 1119 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.62\text{--}0.83$ (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 0.98–1.33 (m, 3 H, cPr-H), 3.02–3.20 (m, 2 H), 3.28 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.66–3.91 (m, 2 H), 4.97 (s, 1 H, CH), 6.62 (d, ³J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H, aryl-H) 7.03–7.50 (m, 6 H, aryl-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, APT): $\delta = 11.8$ (–, cPr-C), 14.4 (–, cPr-C), 39.0 (+, CH₃), 48.1 (–, 2 C, CH₂-C), 53.4 (–, cPr-C), 66.6 (–, 2 C, CH₂-C), 80.8 (+, CH-C), 113.6 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 117.0 (–, aryl-C), 123.3 (–, q, ¹J_{C-F} = 264 Hz, CF₃), 124.2 (+, q, ³J_{C-F} = 4.3 Hz, aryl-C), 124.3 (+, q, ³J_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz, aryl-C), 129.0 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 130.1 (+, aryl-C), 131.8 (–, q, ²J_{C-F} = 32.5 Hz, aryl-C), 143.2 (–, aryl-C), 153.1 (–, aryl-C), 162.4 (–, CN-C), 168.2 (–, CO-C) ppm. MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 459 (22) [M⁺], 285 (16), 257 (20), 190 (100).

General Procedure (GP6) for the Suzuki–Miyaura Coupling of (Bromophenyl)oxazolinecarboxanilide **8c:** A 25 mL Schlenk flask was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 10 mol-%) and P(Ph)₃ (21 mg, 40 mol-%) in toluene (5 mL). The mixture was deoxygenated for 5 min by bubbling nitrogen through it. To this solution was added **8c** (90.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), the respective boronic acid (0.30 mmol) and aq. Na₂CO₃ (0.40 mmol, 2 N), and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, taken up in Et₂O (25 mL), washed with water (10 mL), and the aq. layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography.

5-(Biphenyl-4-yl)-N-methyl-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-6-oxa-4-aza-spiro[2.4]hept-4-ene-7-carboxamide (10c**):** The crude product obtained from **8c** and phenylboronic acid (36.5 mg) according to the GP6 was purified by column chromatography ($R_f = 0.30$; pentane/Et₂O, 1:2), to yield 81 mg (90%) of **10c** as a colorless solid, m.p. 136–137 °C. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu} = 3081, 1660, 1643, 1334, 1128, 1067, 705 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.74\text{--}0.83$ (m, 1 H, cPr-H), 1.03–1.38 (m, 3 H, cPr-H), 3.25 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 5.02 (s, 1 H, CH-H), 7.09–7.59 (m, 13 H, aryl-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃, APT): $\delta = 12.0$ (–, cPr-C), 14.7 (–, cPr-C), 39.1 (+, CH₃), 53.7 (–, cPr-C), 81.0 (+, CH-C), 123.2 (–, q, ¹J_{C-F} = 262 Hz, CF₃), 124.1 (+, q, ³J_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz, aryl-C), 124.4 (+, q, ³J_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz, aryl-C), 125.2 (–, aryl-C), 126.6 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 127.1 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 127.9 (+, aryl-C), 128.1 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 128.9 (+, 2 C, aryl-C), 130.2 (+, aryl-C), 132.0 (–, q, ²J_{C-F} = 33.2 Hz, aryl-C), 140.1 (–, aryl-C), 143.2 (–, aryl-C), 143.9 (–, aryl-C), 162.2 (–, CN-C), 168.0 (–, CO-C) ppm. MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 450 (92) [M⁺], 276 (91), 248 (61), 181 (100). C₂₆H₂₁F₃N₂O₂ (450.5); calcd. C 69.33, H 4.70, N 6.22; found C 69.26, H 4.48, N 6.18.

Supporting Information (see footnote on the first page of this article): Detailed experimental procedures for and full characterization

of all the new compounds **3b–3d**, **4b–4d**, **5ba–5bd**, **6ba–6bd**, **7c**, **7d**, **8d**, **9cb–9ce**, **9da–9de**, **11c**, **12c**, **13c**.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Land Niedersachsen and the Bayer CropScience AG. The authors are grateful to Stefan Beußhausen, Göttingen, for technical assistance in assembling the final manuscript.

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Received: April 1, 2008
Published Online: June 9, 2008