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# Formation of anionic palladium(0) complexes ligated by the trifluoroacetate ion and their reactivity in oxidative addition

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#### Abstract

As established previously for Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes are formed in situ from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and n equiv. triarylphosphines (4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P (Z=CF<sub>3</sub>, F, Cl, H, CH<sub>3</sub>;  $n \ge 3$ ). The phosphines are the intramolecular reducing agents and are oxidized to triarylphosphine oxides. The generated Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes are anionic species ligated by the trifluoroacetate anion: Pd<sup>0</sup>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>n</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> (n=2 or 3). Pd<sup>0</sup>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>n</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> is the reactive species involved in the oxidative addition to PhI. This leads to *trans*-PhPd-(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, involved in equilibrium with the cationic complex *trans*-[PhPd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sup>+</sup>, instead of the expected *trans*-PhPdI(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> complex. The existence of anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes ligated by the acetate or trifluoroacetate ions delivered by the precursors Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> or Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, respectively, as well as their comparative reactivity in oxidative additions are consistent with theoretical DFT calculations.

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#### 1. Introduction

In previous works, some of us provided experimental evidence of the formation of anionic  $Pd^0$  complexes  $Pd^0L_2(OAc)^-$  ( $L=PPh_3$  [1] or  $L_2=dppp$  [2]) (instead of the postulated  $Pd^0L_2$ ) from the catalytic precursor  $Pd^{II}(OAc)_2$  often used to catalyze Heck reactions (Schemes 1 and 2) [3].

The existence and stability of the anionic complexes  $Pd^0L_2(OAc)^-$  (L=PPh<sub>3</sub> or L<sub>2</sub>=dppp) has been confirmed recently on the basis of theoretical calculations (DFT) [4]. As a consequence of the formation of such anionic  $Pd^0$  complexes ligated by the acetate ion, neutral complexes  $ArPd(OAc)(PPh_3)_2$  are generated during their

oxidative addition to aryl halides, ArX (Scheme 1) complexes [1c,1d], instead of the postulated ArPdXL<sub>2</sub> complexes [3]. In the bidentate series, the main complex formed in the oxidative addition is ArPd(dpp-p)((O)dppp)<sup>+</sup> [2,3f] or ArPd(OAc)(dppp) [2] when the oxidative addition is performed in the presence of a large excess of acetate ions which may be used as the base required in every Heck reactions (Scheme 2) [3].

Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> associated with a few equivalent of phosphines is not very often used as catalytic precursor in Heck reactions, but in view of the above results, it was of interest to determine: (i) whether a Pd<sup>0</sup> complex was spontaneously generated from these mixtures and (ii) whether the less basic anion trifluoroacetate was able to coordinate the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex as AcO<sup>-</sup> does, as well as (iii) the consequences on the reactivity of the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> in oxidative addition. This was the purpose of the work that we report hereafter.

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PPh<sub>3</sub> Pd<sup>II</sup> OAc 
$$k_0 = 4x10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$$
 Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)(OAc) + AcO-PPh<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> Ph<sub>2</sub>O PPh<sub>3</sub> Ph<sub>3</sub> Ph<sub>4</sub>O(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc) H<sup>+</sup> + (O)PPh<sub>3</sub> + AcOH Ph<sub>4</sub>O(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc) Ph<sub>4</sub>O(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OAc) Ph<sub>5</sub>OACO PPh<sub>3</sub>OACO PPh<sub>3</sub>O

$$Pd(OAc)_{2} + 2 dppp + H_{2}O \xrightarrow{k_{0} = 3x10^{3}s^{-1}} Pd^{0}(dppp)(OAc)^{-} + dppp(O) + AcOH + H^{-1}OH +$$

Scheme 2.

#### 2. Results and discussion

## 2.1. Evidence of the formation of anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and n equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub> (n4)

The complex Pd<sup>II</sup>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was formed upon addition of 4 equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub> to Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2 mM) in DMF containing nBu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> (0.3 M). It was characterized by its reduction peak at  $E_{\text{red}}^{\text{p}} = -1.14 \text{ V}$  vs SCE. This complex was not stable in DMF, as attested by the decrease of its reduction peak current (proportional to concentration) with time. The cyclic voltamogrammes showed also another reduction peak which appeared at -0.3 V vs SCE and whose reduction current increased with time. This current due to the reduction of protons (vide supra) was suppressed by the initial addition of a base NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv.) to the mixture Pd(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 4 equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub>. Under such conditions, the decrease of the reduction current of Pd<sup>11</sup>(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> could be precisely observed. Concomitantly to this decrease, an oxidation peak O1 appeared at  $E_{\rm ox}^{\rm p} = +0.06 \, {\rm V} \, {\rm vs} \, {\rm SCE}$  whose oxidation peak current increased with time (Fig. 1(a)). This evidences that a Pd<sup>0</sup> complex was generated in situ from Pd<sup>II</sup>(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in DMF. The ensuing Pd<sup>0</sup> complex was stable when generated from the mixture Pd(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 4 equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub> in DMF containing NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv.). Its formation was rather fast, being complete within 30 min at 25 °C.

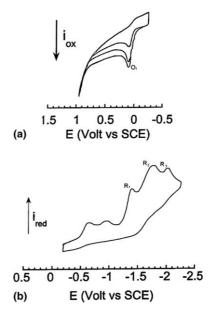


Fig. 1. Cyclic voltammetry performed in DMF (containing  $nBu_4NBF_4$ , 0.3 M) at a steady gold disk electrode (0.5 mm diameter) with a scan rate of  $0.5 \text{ Vs}^{-1}$ , at  $25 ^{\circ}\text{C}$ : (a) oxidation peak of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex generated from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2 mM) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (8 mM) in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> (6 mM), from top to bottom: 3, 17, 32 min after mixing; (b) reduction of the species formed in the oxidative addition of PhI (2 mM) to the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex generated in situ from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2 mM) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (8 mM) in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> (6 mM). R<sub>1</sub>, reduction of OCOCF<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>; R<sub>2</sub>, reduction of [PhPd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sup>+</sup>; R<sub>3</sub>, reduction of [PhPd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

The <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of the resulting Pd<sup>0</sup> solution exhibited two signals (i) a broad singlet at +21.48 ppm ( $\Delta v_{1/2}$ =350 Hz) which disappeared upon addition of phenyl iodide and was then assigned to Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes involved in an equilibrium with PPh<sub>3</sub> whose signal was not observed and (ii) a sharp singlet at +25.44 ppm characteristic of triphenylphosphine oxide. When the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes were generated from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 10 equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub>, the free PPh<sub>3</sub> (usually at -5.24 ppm) was still not detected which confirms that PPh<sub>3</sub> was involved in a dynamic equilibrium with Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes. Moreover, the broad signal of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes shifted to upper field at +1.90 ppm and became thinner ( $\Delta v_{1/2}$ =270 Hz) in agreement with a higher contribution of PPh<sub>3</sub> in the dynamic equilibrium.

To better characterize the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex(es) generated from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and PPh<sub>3</sub>,  $nBu_4NOCOCF_3$  was added to a solution of Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (20 mM) in DMF containing acetone-d<sub>6</sub> 10% and the resulting Pd<sup>0</sup> complex(es) were characterized by <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy. The broad <sup>31</sup>P NMR signal ( $\Delta v = 450 \text{ Hz}$ ) of Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> in DMF observed at +11 ppm, characteristic of the equilibrium between Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and PPh<sub>3</sub> (Scheme 3) [5] was shifted to +8.4 ppm upon addition of  $nBu_4NOCOCF_3$  (1 equiv). No free phosphine was detected. This signal was shifted to upper and upper field upon increasing the amount of added  $nBu_4NOCOCF_3$ .

$$Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{3} \longrightarrow Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{2} + PPh_{3}$$

$$Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{3} + CF_{3}CO_{2}^{-} \longrightarrow Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{3}(OCOCF_{3})^{-}$$

$$Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{3}(OCOCF_{3})^{-} \longrightarrow Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{2}(OCOCF_{3})^{-} + PPh_{3}$$

$$Scheme 3.$$

This establishes that the anion CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> coordinates Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes to generate anionic species which remained in dynamic equilibrium with PPh<sub>3</sub> (Scheme 3).

On the other hand, after addition of 2 equiv. of CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Na to Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (10 mM) in DMF containing acetone-d<sub>6</sub> 10%, two singlets were observed in the <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum, located at 102.935 and 102.920 ppm which differed from the signal of the free CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> located at 102.985 (Fig. 2). After addition of 10 equiv. of CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Na to Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, only one singlet was observed at 102.916 ppm (Fig. 2). This is a further evidence

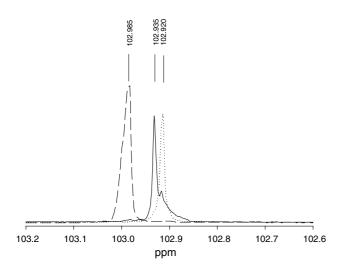


Fig. 2.  $^{19}$ F NMR spectra (235.31 MHz, CFCl<sub>3</sub> as an external reference and  $nBu_4NBF_4$  as an internal reference) in DMF and acetone-d<sub>6</sub> 10%: CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Na (20 mM) alone (dashed line); Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (10 mM) in the presence of 2 equiv. (solid line) and 10 equiv. (dotted line) of CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Na.

of the formation of the anionic species involved in the equilibrium of Scheme 3. The <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes generated from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and four PPh<sub>3</sub> in DMF exhibited only one <sup>19</sup>F NMR singlet at 102.92 ppm, similar to that observed above.

In the light of these experiments, the  $Pd^0$  complexes generated in situ by addition of excess  $PPh_3$  to  $Pd(O-COCF_3)_2$  may be characterized as anionic species ligated by the trifluoroacetate ion. They are involved in equilibrium which was fast compared to the time scale of the cyclic voltammetry because a single oxidation peak  $O_1$  was observed (Fig. 1(a)).

The stability of the two anionic species  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OC-OCH_3)^-$  and  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OCOCF_3)^-$  has been confirmed through DFT calculations (Pd–O bond length: 2.37 and 2.40 Å in  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OAc)$  and  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OCOCF_3)^-$ , respectively; dissociation energy: 10.5 and 4.8 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> for  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OAc)^-$  and  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OCOCF_3)^-$ , respectively) [4].

2.2. Rate and mechanism of the formation of the anionic  $Pd^0$  complexes from  $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$  and n equiv. (4-Z- $C_6H_4)_3P$   $(n \ge 3)$ 

The apparent first-order rate constant  $k_{0(F)}$  of the formation of the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complex was determined by amperometry at a rotating gold disk electrode polarized at +0.2 V vs SCE, i.e., on the plateau of the oxidation wave of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes, as done for Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> [1a,1b,1d]. The rate constant did not vary significantly with the PPh<sub>3</sub> concentration, thus indicating a reaction order zero for PPh3 and with the Pd(OCOCF3)2 concentration, in agreement of a reaction order one for PdII. This demonstrates that  $k_{0(F)}$  was a true first-order rate constant featuring the intramolecular reduction of the Pd<sup>II</sup> to Pd<sup>0</sup> by the phosphine, occurring in the complex Pd(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Scheme 4) as previously established for Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Scheme 1) [1a,1b,1d]. The hydrolysis of the phosphonium salt produced some trifluoroacetic acid whose proton reduction was detected by cyclic voltammetry in the absence of NEt<sub>3</sub> (vide supra).

Scheme 4. Mechanism of the formation of anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and four PPh<sub>3</sub>.

The value of  $k_{0(F)} = 5(\pm 1) \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (DMF, 25 °C) indicates that the formation of the Pd<sup>0</sup> from Pd(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was ca. 10 times faster than that obtained from Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> ( $k_0$ =4×10<sup>-4</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> in DMF, 25 °C [1b]). This suggests an easier cleavage of the Pd–O bond during the intramolecular reductive elimination step, in agreement with the electron withdrawing property of CF<sub>3</sub>.

Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes were also generated in situ in DMF containing nBu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> (0.3 M) from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> associated with various triarylphosphine ligands (4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P whose aryl group had a substituent Z in the para position. They were detected and characterized by their oxidation peak at a steady gold disk electrode at the scan rate of 0.5 Vs<sup>-1</sup> (Z=Me:  $E_{ox}^p = +0.01$  V; Z=H:  $E_{ox}^p = +0.12$  V; Z=Cl:  $E_{ox}^p = +0.30$  V; Z=CF<sub>3</sub>:  $E_{ox}^p = +0.64$  V vs SCE). As expected, the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes were more easily oxidized when the phosphine was more electron rich. The rate constant  $k_{0(F)}^{Z}$  of the formation of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes was determined as described above. Whereas a linear Hammett plot was obtained previously for the formation of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex from Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>  $(PAr_3)_2$  ( $\rho = +2.4$ ) thus establishing that the rate of formation of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex was faster when the phosphine was less electron rich, the Hammett correlation was not linear in the case of Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 3(a)). When Z was an electron withdrawing group, the slope was positive. The driving force of the reductive elimination should then be the attack of the trifluoroacetate ligand on (4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P as established for  $Pd(OAc)_2(PAr_3)_2$ . Conversely, the result with Z = Mesuggests that the slope is negative when Z is an electron donor group. This evidence that the driving force of the reductive elimination should be the attack of the electron rich (4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P on the electron deficient trifluoroacetate ligand.

2.3. Rate and mechanism of the oxidative

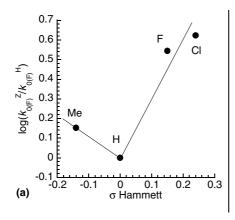
addition of PhI to the anionic  $Pd^{0}(PAr_{3})_{n}(OCOCF_{3})^{-}$  (n = 2, 3) complexes in DMF

The mechanism of the oxidative addition of PhI to the  $Pd^{0}$  complexes generated from  $Pd(OCOCF_{3})_{2}$  and n equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub> was investigated in DMF and in the presence of a base (NEt<sub>3</sub>) to neutralize the protons generated by the hydrolysis of the phosphonium salt (Scheme 4) which might interact with the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes as it has been observed for Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sup>-</sup> [1d]. The oxidative addition was monitored by amperometry at a rotating disk electrode polarized on the plateau of the oxidation wave of the anionic  $Pd^0$  complexes ( $C_0 = 2 \text{ mM}$ ) after addition of PhI (1 equiv.) as performed in the case of  $Pd(OAc)_2$  [1]. The ensuing plot of  $1/x = [Pd^0]_0/[Pd^0] = vs$ time was linear (Fig. 3(b)) in agreement with the expectation for a bimolecular reaction performed under stoichiometric conditions.  $k_{exp}$  was determined from the slope of the straight line:  $1/x = k_{\text{exp}}t + 1$ .

The oxidative addition was slower when the PPh<sub>3</sub> concentration was increased, establishing that Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> was the reactive complex (Scheme 5) so that  $k_{\text{exp}} = K_{1(F)}k_{1(F)}C_0/[\text{PPh}_3]$ .

The value of the rate constant  $k_{1(F)}$  was determined along the same procedure when the oxidative addition was performed under stoichiometric conditions with  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2(OCOCF_3)^-$  generated from  $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$  ( $C_0 = 2 \text{ mM}$ ) and 3 equiv.  $PPh_3$ . Indeed, due to the oxidation of one  $PPh_3$  to  $(O)PPh_3$ , the complex  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_2$  ( $OCOCF_3$ )<sup>-</sup> was then generated quantitatively in the absence of free  $PPh_3$  ligand. One has then:  $1/x = k_{1(F)}C_0t + 1$ , from which it followed that:

$$k_{1(F)} = 81 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ (DMF, } 25 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}).$$



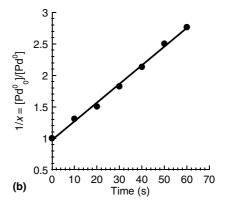


Fig. 3. (a) Hammett plot for the formation of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 14 equiv. (4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv.) in DMF at 25 °C. The rate constant  $k_{O(F)}^2$  of the formation of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex was determined by amperometry at a rotating gold disk electrode (2 mm diameter,  $\omega = 105 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$ ) polarized on the oxidation wave of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex. The increase of the oxidation current was recorded vs time. (b) Kinetics of the oxidative addition of PhI (1 equiv.) to the Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes generated from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> ( $C_0 = 2 \text{ mM}$ ) and 14 equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub> in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv.) in DMF at 25 °C. Plot of  $1/x = [Pd^0]_0/[Pd^0] = v_0$  time ( $[Pd^0]_0/[Pd^0] = i_0/i_t$  with  $i_0$ : initial oxidation current of Pd<sup>0</sup> and  $i_t$ : oxidation current of Pd<sup>0</sup> at  $i_1$ .  $1/x = k_{exp}t + 1$ .

$$Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{3}(OCOCF_{3})^{-} \xrightarrow{K_{1(F)} = 7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}} Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{2}(OCOCF_{3})^{-} + PPh_{3}$$

$$k_{1(F)} = 81 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \downarrow PhI$$

Scheme 5. Mechanism of the oxidative addition of PhI to the anionic  $Pd^0$  complexes generated from  $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$  and  $nPPh_3$  ( $n \ge 4$ ) in DMF (25 °C).

The value of the equilibrium constant  $K_{1(F)}$  was determined from the kinetics of an oxidative addition performed under stoichiometric conditions with  $Pd^0(PPh_3)_3(OCOCF_3)^-$  generated from  $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$  ( $C_0=2$  mM) and 14 equiv.  $PPh_3$ . Then  $1/x=k_{1(F)}K_{1(F)}C_0t/[PPh_3]+1$  with  $[PPh_3]=11$  mM. Using the above  $k_{1(F)}$  value, this afforded:

$$K_{1(F)} = 7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M (DMF, 25 °C)}.$$

The values of the rate constants  $k_{1(F)}$  and equilibrium constants  $K_{1(F)}$  are gathered in Table 1 and compared to those of  $k_1$  and  $K_1$  previously determined with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> as precursor [1d]. Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> is intrinsically slightly more reactive than Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sup>-</sup> since  $k_{1(F)} > k_1$  (see columns 2 and 3, respectively, in Table 1). This result was not expected since the complex Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> should be less electron rich than Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sup>-</sup>. The slightly higher intrinsic reactivity of Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> suggests that its Pd-O bond is weaker than that in Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sup>-</sup> so that its reactivity would be closer to that of the naked Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. This was confirmed by DFT calculations theoretical dissociation the energy Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> was found to be less than that of Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sup>-</sup> (viz., 4.8 vs 10.5 kcalmol<sup>-1</sup>, vide

Interestingly, in the presence of excess PPh<sub>3</sub> ( $n \ge 4$ ) the oxidative addition of PhI to the Pd<sup>0</sup> generated from Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> was faster than to the Pd<sup>0</sup> obtained from Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Indeed, the overall reactivity is then given by the value of  $k_1K_1$  (Scheme 5) and  $k_1K_1 > k_{1(F)}K_{1(F)}$  (see columns 2 and 3, respectively, in Table 1). On one hand, one has:  $k_1 < k_{1(F)}$ , but on the other hand:  $K_1 > K_{1(F)}$ . The overall higher reactivity of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex generated from Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> originates from a higher concentration of the reactive species

Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sup>-</sup> than that of Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> in their respective equilibrium despite the slight higher intrinsic reactivity of the second species.

When Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was considered, the Pd<sup>0</sup>[(4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P]<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> complexes were, as expected, more reactive when the phosphine was more electron rich (Z=Me>H>Cl) (see  $k_{1(F)}$  in columns 3–5 of Table 1). The same trend was observed in the presence of excess ligand (see  $k_{1(F)}K_{1(F)}$  in columns 3–5 of Table 1), since  $K_{1(F)}$  decreased also in the same order.

2.4. Characterization of the phenyl-palladium(II) complexes generated in the oxidative addition of PhI to the anionic  $Pd^0(PAr_3)_n(OCOCF_3)^-$  (n=2, 3) complexes in DMF

The oxidative addition of PhI to the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> generated from Pd<sup>0</sup>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2 mM) and 4 equiv. PPh<sub>3</sub> in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv.) in DMF containing  $nBu_4NBF_4$  (0.3 M) was monitored by cyclic voltammetry at a steady gold disk electrode at the scan rate of 0.5 V s<sup>-1</sup>. At the end of the oxidative addition, the oxidation peak of the Pd<sup>0</sup> complex at +0.06 V was no longer observed but a new oxidation peak was observed at +0.50 V which could be readily assigned to the oxidation of iodide ions by comparison with the oxidation of an authentic sample of nBu<sub>4</sub>NI performed under similar conditions. This suggests that iodide ions were released in the course of the oxidative addition (Scheme 6). In the reduction part of the voltammogramm, three reduction peaks were observed (Fig. 1(b)). The first one at  $E_{R_1}^p = -1.40 \text{ V}$  vs SCE characterize the reduction of the anion CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> by comparison to an authentic sample of nBu₄NO-COCF<sub>3</sub>. The second one at  $E_{\rm R_2}^{\rm p} = -1.81$  V vs SCE characterizes the cationic complex [PhPd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sup>+</sup>.

$$Pd^{0}(PPh_{3})_{2}(OCOCF_{3})^{T} + PhI \longrightarrow trans-PhPd(OCOCF_{3})(PPh_{3})_{2} + I^{T}$$

$$trans-PhPd(PPh_{3})_{2}(DMF)^{T} + CF_{3}CO_{2}^{T}$$

Scheme 6. Mechanism of the oxidative addition of PhI to the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complex ligated by the trifluoroacetate ion.

Table 1
Comparative reactivity of anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complexes generated from palladium(II) carboxylates and triarylphosphines in their oxidative addition to PhI (DMF, 25 °C) (see Scheme 5 as an example)

Precursor	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Pd(OCOCF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Pd(OCOCF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Pd(OCOCF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>
Ligand	PPh <sub>3</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub>	(4-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> P	(4-Cl-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> P
$k_1 (M^{-1} s^{-1})$ $K_1 (M)$ $k_1 K_1 (s^{-1})$	$ 65 \pm 2 \\ 1.9 \times 10^{-3} \\ 123 $	81 ± 4 0.7×10 <sup>-3</sup> 57	92±2 2.7×10 <sup>-3</sup> 248	21 0.9×10 <sup>-3</sup> 19

Such complex was already observed in its equilibrium with PhPd(OAc)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> [1c,1d]. The third one at  $E_{\rm R_2}^{\rm p} = -2.05 \, {\rm V}$  vs SCE characterized then the remaining fraction of the neutral complex PhPd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> which is in equilibrium with the two previous species (Scheme 6). The ratio of the two reduction peak currents  $i_{R_2}/i_{R_3}$  increased as the scan was decreased as in a CE mechanism [6], establishing the existence of the equilibrium in Scheme 6. At the same scan rate, the ratio  $i_{\rm R}/i_{\rm R}$ was higher for PhPd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> than for PhPd(OAc)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> [1c,1d], suggesting that PhPd(O-COCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> dissociated more easily to the cationic complex  $[PhPd(PPh_3)_2(DMF)]^+$ than PhPd(OAc) (PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. In other words, as expected, the affinity of the trifluoroacetate ion for the Pd<sup>II</sup> center is less than that of the acetate ion. The complex PhPd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was also characterized by a <sup>31</sup>P NMR singlet at +22.56 ppm in DMF and acetone-d<sub>6</sub> (10%), attesting a trans structure for the two magnetically equivalent phosphines. The complex trans-PhPdI(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (23.37 ppm) could not be observed except upon addition of an excess of iodide ions.

Therefore, the oxidative addition of PhI to the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complex ligated by the trifluoroacetate ion did not afford the usual *trans*-PhPdI(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> complex [3] but *trans*-PhPd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> together with the cationic complex *trans*-[PhPd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sup>+</sup> (Scheme 6), emphazing the important role played by the anion CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> delivered by the Pd<sup>II</sup> precursor Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> as already observed for Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> [1].

#### 3. Conclusion

Anionic Pd<sup>0</sup>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>n</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> (n=2, 3) complexes were generated whatever the phosphine associated to the Pd<sup>II</sup> precursor Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> by an intramolecular reduction by the phosphine in Pd(OCOOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. The anionic complex Pd<sup>0</sup>(PAr<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup> is the reactive species in the oxidative addition to PhI. The electronic properties of the triarylphosphine ligands affect both the kinetics of formation of the anionic Pd<sup>0</sup> complex and its reactivity in oxidative addition. The oxidative addition to PhI does not afford the expected *trans*-PhPdI(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> but *trans*-PhPd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> which is in equilibrium with the cationic complex *trans*-[PhPd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sup>+</sup>.

These results are very reminiscent to those established for ionic  $Pd^0(PAr_3)_n(OAc)^-$  (n=2, 3) complexes generated from  $Pd(OAc)_2$ . The rate of formation of  $Pd^0(PAr_3)_2(OCOCF_3)^-$  from  $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$  is higher than the rate of formation of  $Pd^0(PAr_3)_2(OAc)^-$  from  $Pd(OAc)_2$ .  $Pd^0(PAr_3)_2(OCOCF_3)^-$  is intrinsically slightly more reactive than  $Pd^0(PAr_3)_2(OAc)^-$  in oxidative addition with PhI. This shows that: (i) the rate of formation of the anionic  $Pd^0$  complexes, (ii) the rate of their oxidative

addition with PhI and (iii) the equilibrium constant between *trans*-PhPd(OCOZ)(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Z=CH<sub>3</sub> or CF<sub>3</sub>) and the cationic complex *trans*-[PhPd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sup>+</sup> generated in the oxidative addition are affected by the carboxylate anion introduced by the Pd<sup>II</sup> precursor whose nature plays then a crucial role.

#### 4. Experimental

#### 4.1. General

<sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker spectrometer (101 MHz) in DMF containing 10% of acetone-d<sub>6</sub>. <sup>19</sup>F NMR were recorded on a Bruker spectrometer (235.31 MHz) using CFCl<sub>3</sub> as an external reference and *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> as an internal reference in DMF containing 10% of acetone-d<sub>6</sub>. Cyclic voltammetry was performed with a home made potentiostat and a wave form generator Tacussel GSTP4. The cyclic voltammograms were recorded on a Nicolet 301 oscilloscope.

#### 4.2. Chemicals

DMF was distilled from calcium hydride under vacuum and kept under argon.  $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$ , the phosphine (4-Z-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P (Z=CF<sub>3</sub>, F, Cl, H, CH<sub>3</sub>), PhI,  $nBu_4NOCOCF_3$ , NaOCOCF<sub>3</sub> were commercial.

### 4.3. Electrochemical set-up and electrochemical procedure for voltammetry

Typical experiments were carried out in a three-electrode thermostated cell connected to a Schlenk line. The counter electrode was a platinum wire of ca. 1 cm<sup>2</sup> apparent surface area. The reference was a saturated calomel electrode (Tacussel) separated from the solution by a bridge filled with 3 ml of DMF containing nBu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> (0.3 M). 15 ml of degassed DMF containing nBu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> (0.3 M) were introduced into the cell followed by 10 mg (0.03 mmol) of Pd(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 37 mg (0.14 mmol)PPh<sub>3</sub> and 9 mg (0.09 mmol) NEt<sub>3</sub>. Cyclic voltammetry was performed at a steady gold disk electrode (0.5 mm diameter) at a scan rate of 0.5 Vs<sup>-1</sup>, unless stated differently. Kinetic measurements for the Pd<sup>0</sup> formation were performed at a rotating gold disk electrode (2 mm diameter,  $\omega = 105 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$ ) polarized at +0.2 V vs SCE by recording the increase of the oxidation current of the Pd<sup>0</sup> with time. Kinetic measurements for the reactivity of the Pd<sup>0</sup> with PhI in the oxidative addition were then performed under the same conditions by recording the decrease of the oxidation current of the Pd<sup>0</sup>, previously observed, with time after addition of 6 mg (0.03 mmol) PhI.

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