

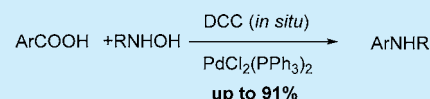
Palladium-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Synthesis of Arylamines

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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A novel approach has been developed for the synthesis of arylamines via the palladium-catalyzed intramolecular decarboxylative coupling (IDC) of aryloxy carbamates, obtained in situ by reacting aryl carboxylic acids with hydroxycarbamates. The reaction offers facile access to structurally diverse arylamines with the site-specific formation of the C(sp²)-N bond under mild conditions.



Arylamine is an important structural motif that can be found in many natural products, synthetic pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and important synthetic building blocks.¹ Due to arylamine usefulness, many elegant methods based on the formation of the C(sp²)-N bonds via the intermolecular cross-coupling reactions, have been reported for the synthesis of arylamines, such as the Buchwald-Hartwig cross-coupling,² the Ullmann reaction of arylamine,³ the Chan-Lam coupling,⁴ and the direct C-H amination of arenes.⁵ Aryl halides,^{2,3} arylboronic acids,^{4,6} and arenes⁷ have been used as the coupling partners in these reactions (Scheme 1a). Despite this progress,

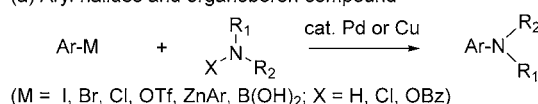
which allows the site-specific introduction of a functional group into the substrate molecule.⁹ Various C-C bond-forming transformations have been developed based on this strategy, using aryl carboxylate salts as the source of the carbon nucleophiles.¹⁰ In contrast, there are only a few reports in which this protocol is used for the formation of a carbon-nitrogen bond.^{7,11} Mainolfi and co-workers^{7a} reported the first example of C(sp²)-N bond formation reaction employing aryl carboxylic acids as the stable, inexpensive, and widely available arylating reagents. More recently, Jia and co-workers^{7b} also established a Cu(II)-catalyzed intermolecular decarboxylative reaction of aryl carboxylic acids for the synthesis of tertiary amides (Scheme 1b). While these two reactions are very valuable synthetic tools, we believe more work can still be done along these lines to further increase the utility of these decarboxylative coupling reactions. Herein, we report a novel intramolecular decarboxylative coupling (IDC) reaction for the synthesis of arylamines by using carboxylic acids together with alkyl hydroxycarbamate derivatives.

We initially attempted a metal-catalyzed intermolecular reaction between alkyl hydroxycarbamates and carboxylic acid or carboxylates; however, these reactions did not deliver the desired products (Scheme 1c). We then turned our attention to the intramolecular reaction. In pursuit of such an IDC protocol for the synthesis of arylamines, we conceived a catalytic redox design based on the Tsuji-Trost's intramolecular decarboxylative allylation reaction, which has been used successfully for the C-C bond formation.¹² Thus, we first examined the reaction of aryloxy carbamates **1** as the *N*-arylation precursor for the synthesis of the arylamines. To our delight, the reaction catalyzed by palladium gave the desired arylcarbamates **2** in high yields and regioselectivity, with CO₂ as the only byproduct of this reaction. In addition, we found the reactive aryloxy carbamates **1** could be obtained by reacting carboxylic acids with alkyl hydroxycarbamate in situ so that a one-pot synthesis of arylamines can be achieved in high yields (Scheme 1d and Table 2, entry 1). The detailed results are summarized in Table 1.

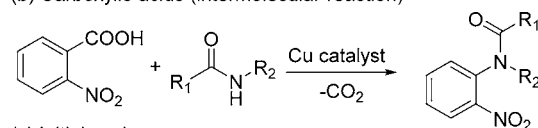
Scheme 1. Metal-Catalyzed C(sp²)-N Bond Formation

Previous work:

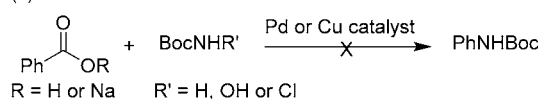
(a) Aryl halides and organoboron compound



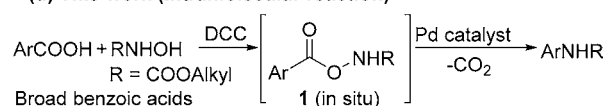
(b) Carboxylic acids (intermolecular reaction)



(c) Initial work



(d) This work (intramolecular reaction)



the development of a new method that relies on inexpensive and readily available starting materials is still warranted. Arylcarboxylic acids are cheap and readily available raw materials. The decarboxylative cross-coupling reactions of aryl carboxylic acids has attracted a lot interest in the past decade.⁸ The reaction involves the cleavage of the C(sp²)-COOH bond,

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Table 1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions^a

entry	catalyst	ligand	base	solvent	yield ^b (%)
1	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	68
2	Pd(TFA) ₂	PPh ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	56
3	Pd(dba) ₂	PPh ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	58
4	PdCl ₂	PPh ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	78
5	PdCl ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	trace
6	PdCl ₂	TTBP	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	80
7	PdCl ₂	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	76
8	PdCl ₂	BINAP	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	45
9	PdCl ₂	XantPhos	Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	63
10	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	88 (86) ^c
11	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄		Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	78
12	Pd(dppf)Cl ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	45
13	No		Cs ₂ CO ₃	MCB	trace
14	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂			MCB	0
15	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		K ₃ PO ₄	MCB	41
16	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		NaO ^t Bu	MCB	67
17	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		KO ^t Bu	MCB	68
18	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		K ₂ CO ₃	MCB	56
19	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Et ₃ N	MCB	39
20	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	toluene	80
21	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	xylene	78
22	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	48
23	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	THF	65
24	PdCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂		Cs ₂ CO ₃	<i>tert</i> -butyl alcohol	79

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), catalyst (5 mol %), ligand (10 mol %), base (0.40 mmol) in chlorobenzene (MCB) (1.2 mL) at 85 °C for 1 h. ^bUnless otherwise noted, the yields were determined by GC analysis using biphenyl as internal standard. ^cThe yield of the isolated product is shown in parentheses.

As shown in Table 1, with Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol %) as the catalyst in the presence of PPh₃ (10 mol %) as ligand, the IDC reaction of *t*-butyl [(2-methylbenzoyl)oxy]carbamate **1a** gave the corresponding *t*-butyl *o*-tolylcarbamate **2a** in 68% yield, when the reaction was conducted at 85 °C in chlorobenzene (MCB) with Cs₂CO₃ (2 equiv) as the base. (Table 1, entry 1). Other Pd sources are also capable of catalyzing the desired reaction in the presence of PPh₃ (Table 1, entries 2–4), with PdCl₂ gave the best results (Table 1, entry 4). However, only trace amount product was obtained if the phosphine ligand was absent (Table 1, entry 5). Next the phosphine ligands with different steric and electronic environments were screened (Table 1, entries 6–9). An electron-rich phosphine ligand TTBP was found to give a slightly higher yield of the desired coupling product (Table 1, entry 6). Further screening revealed that using PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (Table 1, entry 10) is more efficient than using PdCl₂ and PPh₃ separately. However, other ligand-containing Pd sources, such as Pd(PPh₃)₄ and Pd(dppf)Cl₂, are less effective (Table 1, entries 11–12). In addition, the reaction did not proceed without either the Pd catalyst or the Cs₂CO₃ base (Table 1, entries 13–14). The results of other inorganic and organic bases screened in this reaction (Table 1, entries, 14–19) indicate that Cs₂CO₃ is the base of choice for this reaction (Table 1, entry 12). Further investigations on the solvent effects showed that several common solvents such as

toluene, DMF, xylene, THF, and *t*-butanol all led to the formation of the product **2a** in good yields (Table 1, entries 20–24), with MCB gave the best results in terms of yield and regioselectivity. On the other hand, increasing the amount of the catalyst and reaction time did not improve the yield (data not shown).

With the optimized reaction parameters for this newly developed IDC reaction, we then examined the scope of this reaction (Table 2). As shown in Table 2, many functional

Table 2. Substrate Scope^a

entry	substrate	product (time)	yield (%) ^b
1			
1 ^c	1a , 2-Me	2a (1 h)	86(83)
2 ^c	1b , H	2b (2.5 h)	45
3	1c , 2-MeO	2c (1 h)	83
4	1d , 2-F	2d (1 h)	70
5	1e , 2-Cl	2e (1 h)	91
6	1f , 2-NO ₂	2f (1 h)	87
7	1g , 2-(CF ₃)	2g (1 h)	83
8	1h , 2-Ph	2h (1.5 h)	90
9 ^c			
10 ^c	1i , 3-Cl	2i (2.5 h)	88
11 ^c			
	1j , 2,3-Me ₂	2j (1 h)	73
	1k , 2,4,6-Cl ₃	2k (2.5 h)	61
12 ^c			
13 ^c	1l , 4-Me	2l (2.5 h)	75
14 ^c			
15 ^c	1m , 4-MeO	2m (2.5 h)	71
16 ^c			
17 ^c	1n , 4-Cl	2n (2.5 h)	72
	1o , 4-NO ₂	2o (2.5 h)	60
	1p , 4-Ph	2p (3 h)	45
	1q , 4-MeOOC	2q (3 h)	42

^aReaction conditions: **1** (0.50 mmol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (5 mol %), Cs₂CO₃ (1.0 mmol) in chlorobenzene (MCB) (3 mL) at 85 °C.

^bYield of isolated product. The in situ yield is shown in parentheses.

^cConducted with Cs₂CO₃ (0.50 mmol) at 120 °C.

groups, such as the nitro (**1f**, **1o**), ester (**1q**), alkoxy (**1c**, **1m**), and halide groups (**1d**, **1e**, **1i**, **1k**, and **1n**), are compatible with this transformation. Sterically more hindered *ortho*-substituted carboxylic acids gave high yields of the desired products (Table 2, entries 1, 3–8, and 10–11). Nonetheless, although *t*-butyl benzoyloxycarbamate **1b** derived from benzoic acid could successfully be transformed into **2b**, the yield was much lower (Table 2, entry 2). We also found that the *meta*- and *para*-substituted substrates react more slowly under the optimized conditions. Fortunately, full conversions were achieved when the reactions were carried out at 120 °C with just 1 equiv of Cs₂CO₃. Under these new conditions, the corresponding *meta*-, *para*-substituted **2** may be obtained in good yields. In general, the yields obtained for *ortho*-substituted carboxylates are slightly higher than those *meta*-, *para*-substituted ones, possibly

with high regioselectivities and good to high yields under mild thermal conditions. In addition, the method reported here can be successfully applied to a broad range of carboxylic acids and hydroxycarbamates.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.6b02724.

General procedures, characterization data, and NMR spectra (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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