

# Palladium-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Synthesis of Arylamines

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Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** A novel approach has been developed for the synthesis of arylamines via the palladium-catalyzed intramolecular decarboxylative coupling (IDC) of aroyloxycarbamates, 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  $C(sp^2)$ -N bond under mild conditions.

ArCOOH +RNHOH 
$$\frac{\text{DCC } (\text{in situ})}{\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2} \text{ ArNHR}$$

$$\text{up to 91\%}$$

rylamine is an important structural motif that can be found in many natural products, synthetic pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and important synthetic building blocks. Due to arylamine usefulness, many elegant methods based on the formation of the C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-N bonds via the intermolecular cross-coupling reactions, have been reported for the synthesis of arylamines, such as the Buchwald-Hartwig cross-coupling, the Ullmann reaction of arylamine,<sup>3</sup> the Chan-Lam coupling,<sup>4</sup> and the direct C-H amination of arenes.<sup>5</sup> Aryl halides,<sup>2,3</sup> arylboronic acids,<sup>4,6</sup> and arenes<sup>7</sup> have been used as the coupling partners in these reactions (Scheme 1a). Despite this progress,

# Scheme 1. Metal-Catalyzed C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-N Bond Formation

(a) Aryl halides and organoboron compound

Ar-M + 
$$X \stackrel{R_1}{\stackrel{N}{\stackrel{}}} R_2$$
 cat. Pd or Cu  $Ar-N \stackrel{R_2}{\stackrel{}} R_2$  (M = I, Br, Cl, OTf, ZnAr, B(OH)<sub>2</sub>; X = H, Cl, OBz)

(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  $C(sp^2)$ -COOH bond,

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 carbonnitrogen bond.<sup>7,11</sup> Mainolfi and co-workers<sup>7a</sup> reported the first example of C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-N bond formation reaction employing aryl carboxylic acids as the stable, inexpensive, and widely available arylating reagents. More recently, Jia and co-workers<sup>7b</sup> 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 aroyloxycarbamates 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 CO<sub>2</sub> as the only byproduct of this reaction. In addition, we found the reactive aroyloxycarbamates 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.

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Table 1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>

entry	catalyst	ligand	base	solvent	yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	$Pd(OAc)_2$	$PPh_3$	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	68
2	$Pd(TFA)_2$	$PPh_3$	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	56
3	$Pd(dba)_2$	$PPh_3$	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	58
4	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	$PPh_3$	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	78
5	PdCl <sub>2</sub>		$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	trace
6	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	TTBP	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	80
7	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	$P(o-tol)_3$	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	76
8	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	BINAP	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	45
9	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	XantPhos	$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	63
10	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	$88 (86)^c$
11	$Pd(PPh_3)_4$		$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	78
12	Pd(dppf)Cl <sub>2</sub>		$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	45
13	No		$Cs_2CO_3$	MCB	trace
14	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$			MCB	0
15	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$K_3PO_4$	MCB	41
16	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$NaO^tBu$	MCB	67
17	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		KO <sup>t</sup> Bu	MCB	68
18	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$K_2CO_3$	MCB	56
19	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		Et <sub>3</sub> N	MCB	39
20	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$Cs_2CO_3$	toluene	80
21	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$Cs_2CO_3$	xylene	78
22	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$Cs_2CO_3$	DMF	48
23	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$Cs_2CO_3$	THF	65
24	$PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$		$Cs_2CO_3$	<i>tert</i> -butyl alcohol	79

"Reaction 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. <sup>b</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the yields were determined by GC analysis using biphenyl as internal standard. <sup>c</sup>The yield of the isolated product is shown in parentheses.

As shown in Table 1, with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (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  $Cs_2CO_3$  (2 equiv) as the base. (Table 1, entry 1). Other Pd sources are also capable of catalyzing the desired reaction in the presence of PPh<sub>3</sub> (Table 1, entries 2-4), with PdCl<sub>2</sub> 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 PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Table 1, entry 10) is more efficient than using PdCl<sub>2</sub> and PPh<sub>3</sub> separately. However, other ligandcontaining Pd sources, such as Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>, are less effective (Table 1, entries 11–12). In addition, the reaction did not proceed without either the Pd catalyst or the Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 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 Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 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<sup>a</sup>

	1		2
entry	substrate	product (time)	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
	NHBoc R	NHBoc R	
1	1a, 2-Me	2a (1 h)	86(83)
2° 3 4	1b, H	<b>2b</b> (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 <sub>2</sub>	2f (1 h)	87
7	1g, 2-(CF <sub>3</sub> )	2g (1 h)	83
8	<b>1h</b> , 2-Ph	<b>2h</b> (1.5 h)	90
9° 10°	NHBoc R 1i, 3-Cl 1j, 2,3-Me <sub>2</sub>	NHBoc R 2i (2.5 h) 2j (1 h)	88 73
11°	1k, 2,4,6-Cl <sub>3</sub>	2k (2.5 h)	61
12 <sup>c</sup>	1I, 4-Me	21 (2.5 h)	75
13°	1m 4-MeO	2m (2.5 h)	71
14 <sup>c</sup>	1n, 4-Cl	2n (2.5 h)	72
15°	10, 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	<b>2o</b> (2.5 h)	60
16°	1p, 4-Ph	2p (3 h)	45
17°	1q, 4-MeOOC	2q (3 h)	42

"Reaction conditions: 1 (0.50 mmol),  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  (5 mol %),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (1.0 mmol) in chlorobenzene (MCB) (3 mL) at 85 °C. bYield of isolated product. The in situ yield is shown in parentheses. Conducted with  $Cs_2CO_3$  (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 Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. 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

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because of the steric hindrance and/or interaction of the substituent with the palladium catalyst in the transition state.

To demonstrate further the scope and the versatility of this catalytic system, we next evaluated the reaction of 4-methyl-1-naphthoic acid, *trans*-cinnamic acid, and various hydroxycarbamates (Table 3). As the results show, 4-methyl-1-naphthoic

Table 3. Substrate Scope<sup>a</sup>

"Reaction conditions: 1 (0.50 mmol),  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  (5 mol %),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.50 mmol) in chlorobenzene (MCB) (3 mL) at 120 °C. Yield of isolated product shown.

acid is well tolerated, and the desired coupling product 2aa was obtained in 75% yield. Similarly, a good yield was obtained for the IDC product corresponding to *trans*-cinnamic acid 2ac. In the case of hydroxycarbamates, the reaction proceeds well with hydroxycarbamates that has a primary, secondary, or tertiary ester alkyl group (Table 3). Moreover, when *ortho*-substituted benzoic acids 1ad-1al were subjected to this reaction under the standard reaction conditions, the expected IDC products were obtained in good to high yields (Table 3).

To demonstrate the practical utility of this novel method, the reaction of t-butyl [(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbonyl]oxycarbamate (1h) was performed at the 10 mmol scale. The desired t-butyl (1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl carbamate (2h) was formed in 88% yield  $(Scheme\ 2)$ . This result is comparable with that obtained

Scheme 2. Large-Scale Synthesis of 2a and Its Application

previously at 0.5 mmol scale (Table, 2, entry 8). Compound 2h can be effectively converted to the carbazoles 3h and 4h in 98% yield, with a 2:1 ratio of 3h to 4h (Scheme 2). In contrast, the direct C–H amination of 1h only gave a total yield of 75% for these two products with a product ratio of 68:32 (Scheme 2). In addition, there are some reports for the synthesis of indole using phenylcarbamates as a versatile synthon. <sup>13</sup>

To probe the catalytic pathway, some additional investigations were conducted. First, we investigated the gas phase of the reaction mixture and carbon dioxide was detected by GC (see the Supporting Information). When the decarboxylation was carried out in deuterated benzoic acid, which suggested that a possible process of decarboxylation and coupling reaction existed. From isotopic labeling experiments, it was also strongly suggesting that the rate-determining step for the IDC reaction is most probably the decarboxylation from the benzoic acid (Scheme 3). Thus, the observed selectivity is understandable.

## Scheme 3. Isotopic Labeling Experiments

On the basis of the current results and the reported mechanistic proposals for the Buchwald–Hartwig cross-coupling and the Gooßen's decarboxylative Heck reaction, <sup>2,10</sup> a plausible pathway of the IDC reaction is proposed (Scheme 4). As shown in

Scheme 4. Proposed IDC Pd Catalytic Cycle

Scheme 4, the first step of the catalytic cycle is the reaction of the Pd species with 1 to generate the complex 5 through deprotonation with the assistance of the base. Then the N–O bond cleavage affords the acyl carboxylate–Pd intermediate 6. Previous reports on the use of aroyloxycarbamates for amidation reactions supports this hypothesis. 12,5b,d The complex 7 is then generated through decarboxylation of 6, and finally, reductive elimination produces the desired product 2 with the regeneration of catalyst and completes the catalytic cycle.

In summary, we have developed a direct synthesis of arylamines via a palladium-catalyzed N-arylation that works through an intramolecular decarboxylative coupling of aroyloxycarbamates that may generated in situ from inexpensive, readily available, and nontoxic carboxylic acids and hydroxycarbamates. The corresponding arylamines may be obtained

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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

# **S** 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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