

Ruthenium-Catalyzed Hydroarylations of Oxa- and Azabicyclic Alkenes

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S Supporting Information

[AB](#page-2-0)STRACT: [A ruthenium](#page-2-0)-catalyzed arylation reaction of oxa- and azabicyclic alkenes with (hetero)arenes by C−H bond activation has been discovered. The reaction does not require additives and utilizes dioxygen in realizing the catalytic cycle leading to monosubstituted 7-oxa and 7-azabenzonorbornane derivatives.

KEYWORDS: ruthenium, alkylation, oxa- and azabicyclic alkenes, oxygen, C−H bond activation

T ransition-metal-catalyzed C−H bond functionalization¹
provides an effective access to natural products² and
compounds with pharmacoutical relayance³. The use of compounds with pharmaceutical relevance.³ The use [of](#page-2-0) molecules with directing groups (DG) allows the site-se[le](#page-2-0)ctive co[n](#page-3-0)struction of $C-C^4$ and C −heteroatom bonds.^{5−8} For the former transformations, the pioneering studies of arene-toolefin additions lea[din](#page-3-0)g to alkylated aromatic [syst](#page-3-0)ems by Murai,⁹ Chatani,¹⁰ Bergman, Ellman,¹¹ Ackermann,¹² and Fagnou 13 have proven most stimulating because they opened new s[yn](#page-3-0)thetic op[po](#page-3-0)rtunities following [ato](#page-3-0)m-economic[al](#page-3-0) strategies.

Recently, Li reported rhodium(III)-catalyzed additions of arenes onto heterobicyclic alkenes in the presence of silver salts leading to ortho-naphthylated products and cis-fused dihydrocarbazole derivatives (Scheme 1a).¹⁴ We applied the same bicyclic starting materials and achieved sulfoximine additions across th[e](#page-3-0) double bonds retaining the bicyclic scaffolds.¹⁵ In

Scheme 1. Metal-Catalyzed C−H Bond Functionalizati[ons](#page-3-0) of Oxa- and Azabicyclic Alkenes

a) Li's work

addition, those C−H functionalization reactions were rhodium- (III)-catalyzed, and in this case, the presence of $Fe(OAc)_2$ proved beneficial (Scheme 1b). In light of Ackermann's recent reports on ruthenium(II)-catalyzed couplings between linear alkenes and (hetero)arenes or pyrrolidines with potassium carboxylates and BINAP as cocatalytic additives,¹⁶ we wondered about the effects of such ruthenium-based catalyst systems in the aforementioned cross-coupling reactio[ns.](#page-3-0) The results of this investigation, which led to the development of hydroarylations of strained oxa- and azabicyclic alkenes without the necessity to add a metal salt (Scheme 1c), is reported here.

For the initial reactivity study, 2-phenylpyridine (1a) and oxabicyclic alkene 2a were selected as representative starting materials. Using a catalyst system consisting of $\left[\text{RuCl}_{2}(p-1)\right]$ cymene)]₂ (2 mol %) and Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (2 equiv) in air gave a promising 10% of the desired alkylated product 3aa (Table 1, entry 1).¹⁷ The addition of AgSbF₆ (10 mol %) (with a concomitant solvent switch from toluene to dichloroethan[e\)](#page-1-0) inhibited [th](#page-3-0)e catalysis (Table 1, entry 2). Combinations of 2 mol % of $[RuCl₂(p-cymene)]$ ₂ and 20 mol % of AgOAc, Ag_2CO_3 , [o](#page-1-0)r Fe $(OAc)_2$ led to unsatisfying results (Table 1, entries 3−5). The yield of 3aa could be increased using $Fe(OAc)$ ₂ under oxygen instead of air (Table 1, entry 6).

Raising the temperature from 100 to 120 °C prov[ed](#page-1-0) beneficial as well (Table 1, entry 7). That [t](#page-1-0)he ruthenium catalyst was needed was confirmed by a test experiment [p](#page-1-0)erformed without $[RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂$ (Table 1, entry 8). To our surprise and contrasting previous observations made in the rhodium-catalyzed hydroarylations,¹⁵ the reacti[on](#page-1-0)s proceeded better in the absence of metal-based additives (Table 1, entries 9−13). The optimal result was ob[tai](#page-3-0)ned in a catalysis with 1 mol % of $[RuCl_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ in toluene at 120 °C [u](#page-1-0)nder an

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Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions for the $Ru(II)$ -Catalyzed Hydroarylation^a

^aReaction conditions: 1a (0.30 mmol), 2a (0.60 mmol), $[\text{RuCl}_2(p$ cymene)]₂ (x mol %) in dry toluene (1.5 mL) at indicated temperature for 3 h. b Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (2.0 equiv). ^cCu(OAc)₂·H₂O (2.0 equiv) and $AgSbF_6$ (10 mol %) in DCE (1.5 mL). d Reaction for 1 h with 20 mol % of additive. e Reaction time for 12 h.

atmosphere of dioxygen, which afforded 3aa in 92% yield (Table 1, entry 11). Both raising and lowering the catalyst amount led to a decrease in yield of 3aa.¹⁸ Notably, the dioxygen atmosphere was crucial for the progression of the reaction as shown by experiments performed [un](#page-3-0)der argon and air, which led to 3aa in only 5% and 35%, respectively (Table 1, entries 14 and 15).¹⁹

Under the optimized conditions (Table 1, entry 11) the hydroarylation of a [n](#page-3-0)umber of substituted (hetero)arenes with 2a as olefinic partner was studied next. As shown in Scheme 2, 2-arylpyridines with both electron-donating and -withdrawing groups on the arene reacted well affording the corresponding products (3aa−3la) in yields between 65% and 94%. The substrate palette included two picoline derivatives (3ba, 3ca). The moderate yield in the formation of 3fa (65%) was attributed to a steric compression induced by the ortho-ethoxy group on the arene. Pyridines with thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, and indolyl substituents gave products 3ma, 3na, and 3oa in yields of 66%, 40%, and 72%, respectively. The structure of 3ma was analyzed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction, which confirmed the formation of the exo product (for details, see Supporting Information). Finally, N-phenyl pyrazole was applied, which led to addition product 3pa in 55% yield. 7,8-Benzoq[uinoline did](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258/suppl_file/cs5b00258_si_001.pdf) [not react wi](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258/suppl_file/cs5b00258_si_001.pdf)th 2a.

Subsequently, the olefinic component was varied, and additions of 2-arylpridines onto a range of oxa- and azabicyclic alkenes were examined (Scheme 3). In all cases, the reactions proceeded well affording the corresponding products in yields between 61% and 92%. Electronic effects on both the arene and the alkene were insignificant.

Scheme 2. Scope of (Hetero)Arenes^{a}

^aReaction conditions: 1a (0.30 mmol), 2a (0.60 mmol), $\left[\text{RuCl}_{2}(p\right]$ cymene)]₂ (1 mol %) in dry toluene (1.5 mL) at 120 °C for 3–12 h. b ⁰.80 mmol of 2a.

^aReaction conditions: 1a (0.30 mmol), 2a (0.60 mmol), $[\text{RuCl}_2(p$ cymene)]₂ (1 mol %) in dry toluene (1.5 mL) at 120 °C for 6-12 h.

To probe the reaction mechanism, two experiments were carried out. First, hypothesizing that protonation events were relevant for the catalysis, 1a was treated with alkene 2a in a solvent system consisting of toluene and fully deuterated methanol (in a 10:1 ratio). As a result, partially labeled 3aa with

11% deuterium each at the arene and the newly formed alkyl substituent was obtained in 31% yield (Scheme 4, top). This

observation was interpreted as support for the proposed mechanistically relevant proton transfer and as indication for a reversible C−H bond metalation step. The latter was strengthened by an isotope analysis of the recovered starting material, which showed a significant deuterium incorporation into 1a after the catalysis (see Supporting Information for details). In a second experiment, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridine (1a) and its isotopically labeled analogue $1a-D₅$ was subjected to the reaction with alkene 2a (S[cheme](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258/suppl_file/cs5b00258_si_001.pdf) [4,](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258/suppl_file/cs5b00258_si_001.pdf) [bottom\).](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258/suppl_file/cs5b00258_si_001.pdf) [From](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/suppl/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258/suppl_file/cs5b00258_si_001.pdf) this catalysis, a kinetic isotope effect (KIE) of $k_H/k_D \approx 2.57$ was determined.^{20,21}

On the basis of the aforementioned experimental evidence, we propose [a m](#page-3-0)echanistic path as shown in Scheme 5. The

Scheme 5. Plausible Catalytic Cycle

ruthenium(II) catalyst inserts (reversibly) into the C−H bond of the arene, which upon loss of a proton forms ruthenacycle A.²² The reaction with the bicyclic olefin (carboruthenation) leads to a new ruthenium complex B. Protonation of B provides th[e](#page-3-0) product and regenerates the initial ruthenium species, which reenters the catalytic cycle. This scenario explains the formation of the hydroarylation product, but a few facts remain obscure. First, it is surprising that no additive is required for the catalyst activation, as needed by Ackermann in his rutheniumcatalyzed carboxylate-assisted olefin hydroarylation reactions.¹⁶ Second, the significant activation effect by dioxygen, which appears critical for the entire catalysis, is not accounted f[or.](#page-3-0) Both effects deserve attention in subsequent more detailed mechanistic analyses.^{23,24}

To illustrate the synthetic applicability of the hydroarylation products, a derivatiza[tion](#page-3-0) of 3aa was conducted (Scheme 6). In

the presence of lithium metal and naphthalene, 3aa underwent reductive cleavage of the carbon−oxygen bond in tetrahydrofuran to give 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-ols 4a and 4b in 22% and 23% yields, respectively. As partially hydrogenated naphthalenes have attracted much attention, 25 we can envision applications of this methodology in medicinal chemistry.²⁶

In summary, we developed a rutheniu[m-](#page-3-0)catalyzed C−H bond activation leading to additions of (hetero)arenes [o](#page-3-0)nto bicyclic olefins. As a result, synthetically useful 7-oxa and 7 azabenzonorbornanes are obtained that can be functionalized further. Interesting features are that no additives are required for the catalyst activation and that dioxygen plays a decisive, still to be uncovered role.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

The following file is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acscatal.5b00258.

Experimental details, characterizing data of compou[nds](http://pubs.acs.org) 3 and 4[, deuteriu](http://pubs.acs.org)m-labeli[ng experiments, NMR spec](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acscatal.5b00258)tra, Xray crystal structure and data of 3ma (PDF)

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Notes

The auth[ors declare no competing](mailto:carsten.bolm@oc.rwth-aachen.de) financial interest.

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(17) The aerobic atmosphere was chosen as it had proven suitable in the previously studied rhodium catalysis (ref 15).

(18) At catalyst loadings of 5 mol% and 2 mol%, the reactions were very fast, leading to a decomposition of 2a. Phenylpyridine (1a) could be recovered. Degradation of 2a was also observed when the reaction was performed in the absence of 1a using 5 mol % of $\left[\text{RuCl}_{2}(p-1)\right]$ cymene)] $_2$ at 120 °C for 3 h under dioxygen.

(19) Substituting $[RuCl_2(p\text{-cymene})]$, by $RuCl_2(PPh_3)$ ₃ (2 mol %) and $\left[\text{Ru(CO)_3Cl}_2\right]_2$ (1 mol %) gave 3aa in 38% and 21% yield, respectively. No reaction was observed with $Ru(CO)_{2}Cl_{2}(PPh_{3})_{2}$. Neither acetophenone nor N-phenylbenzaldimine could be applied instead of 1a as coupling partner for 2a under standard reaction conditions.

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(21) The determination of the KIE values was complicated in this case as ESI MS indicated that product 3aa-Dy had undergone multiple H/D exchange reactions which hampered the precise analysis by NMR spectroscopy.

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(23) Heating of $[RuCl_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ under an atmosphere of dioxygen for 1 h at 120 °C did not seem to affect the catalyst as suggested by ESI MS analysis. Changing the oxidant from dioxygen to di-tert-butylperoxide (DTBP, 2 equiv.) gave 3aa in 23% yield. With tert-butylhydroperoxide (TBHP) as oxidant, no reaction occurred. The addition of TEMPO (2 equiv) to a reaction under standard conditions led to an inhibition of the catalysis affording 3aa in <10% yield.

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