# 

## Ruthenium-Catalyzed Hydroarylations of Oxa- and Azabicyclic Alkenes

Hanchao Cheng,<sup>†</sup> Wanrong Dong,<sup>†</sup> Carl Albrecht Dannenberg,<sup>†</sup> Shunxi Dong,<sup>†</sup> Qianqian Guo,<sup>‡</sup> and Carsten Bolm<sup>\*,†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Institute of Organic Chemistry and <sup>‡</sup>Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, RWTH Aachen University, Landoltweg 1, 52056 Aachen, Germany

Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** A ruthenium-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-azabenzonor-bornane derivatives.

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

T ransition-metal-catalyzed C–H bond functionalization<sup>1</sup> provides an effective access to natural products<sup>2</sup> and compounds with pharmaceutical relevance.<sup>3</sup> The use of molecules with directing groups (DG) allows the site-selective construction of C–C<sup>4</sup> and C–heteroatom bonds.<sup>5–8</sup> For the former transformations, the pioneering studies of arene-to-olefin additions leading to alkylated aromatic systems by Murai,<sup>9</sup> Chatani,<sup>10</sup> Bergman, Ellman,<sup>11</sup> Ackermann,<sup>12</sup> and Fagnou<sup>13</sup> have proven most stimulating because they opened new synthetic opportunities following atom-economical 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).<sup>14</sup> We applied the same bicyclic starting materials and achieved sulfoximine additions across the double bonds retaining the bicyclic scaffolds.<sup>15</sup> In

## Scheme 1. Metal-Catalyzed C–H Bond Functionalizations of Oxa- and Azabicyclic Alkenes





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,<sup>16</sup> we wondered about the effects of such ruthenium-based catalyst systems in the aforementioned cross-coupling reactions. 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  $[RuCl_2(p-cymen)]_2$  (2 mol %) and  $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$  (2 equiv) in air gave a promising 10% of the desired alkylated product 3aa (Table 1, entry 1).<sup>17</sup> The addition of AgSbF<sub>6</sub> (10 mol %) (with a concomitant solvent switch from toluene to dichloroethane) inhibited the catalysis (Table 1, entry 2). Combinations of 2 mol % of  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  and 20 mol % of AgOAc,  $Ag_2CO_3$ , or 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 proved beneficial as well (Table 1, entry 7). That the ruthenium catalyst was needed was confirmed by a test experiment performed without  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  (Table 1, entry 8). To our surprise and contrasting previous observations made in the rhodium-catalyzed hydroarylations,<sup>15</sup> the reactions proceeded better in the absence of metal-based additives (Table 1, entries 9–13). The optimal result was obtained in a catalysis with 1 mol % of  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  in toluene at 120 °C under an

Received:February 6, 2015Revised:March 23, 2015Published:March 25, 2015



## Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions for the Ru(II)-Catalyzed Hydroarylation<sup>a</sup>

N N	+	N [RuC sol	l <sub>2</sub> ( <i>p</i> -cymene)] <sub>2</sub>		$\bigcirc$
1a	2a			3aa	
entry	catalyst loading (mol %)	oxidant	additive	temp (°C)	yield (%)
$1^b$	2.0	air	$Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$	100	10
$2^{c}$	2.0	air	$Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ AgSbF <sub>6</sub>	100	0
$3^d$	2.0	air	AgOAc	100	14
$4^d$	2.0	air	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	100	20
$5^d$	2.0	air	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	100	21
$6^d$	2.0	O <sub>2</sub>	$Fe(OAc)_2$	100	35
$7^d$	2.0	O <sub>2</sub>	$Fe(OAc)_2$	120	48
$8^d$	0	O <sub>2</sub>	$Fe(OAc)_2$	120	0
9	2.0	O <sub>2</sub>		120	61
10	5.0	O <sub>2</sub>		120	10
11	1.0	<b>O</b> <sub>2</sub>		120	92
12	0.5	O <sub>2</sub>		120	74
$13^e$	0.1	O <sub>2</sub>		120	21
14	1.0	argon		120	5
15	1.0	air		120	35
an .		10.00	1) - (2.42	1) [7]	<b>C1</b> (

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.30 mmol), **2a** (0.60 mmol),  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  (*x* mol %) in dry toluene (1.5 mL) at indicated temperature for 3 h. <sup>*b*</sup>Cu(OAc)\_2·H\_2O (2.0 equiv). <sup>*c*</sup>Cu(OAc)\_2·H\_2O (2.0 equiv) and AgSbF<sub>6</sub> (10 mol %) in DCE (1.5 mL). <sup>*d*</sup>Reaction for 1 h with 20 mol % of additive. <sup>*c*</sup>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**.<sup>18</sup> Notably, the dioxygen atmosphere was crucial for the progression of the reaction as shown by experiments performed under argon and air, which led to **3aa** in only 5% and 35%, respectively (Table 1, entries 14 and 15).<sup>19</sup>

Under the optimized conditions (Table 1, entry 11) the hydroarvlation of a number 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-Benzoquinoline did not react with 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.





<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.30 mmol), **2a** (0.60 mmol),  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  (1 mol %) in dry toluene (1.5 mL) at 120 °C for 3–12 h. <sup>*b*</sup>0.80 mmol of **2a**.





<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.30 mmol), **2a** (0.60 mmol),  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  (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 <u>Supporting Information</u> for details). In a second experiment, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridine (1a) and its isotopically labeled analogue 1a-D<sub>5</sub> was subjected to the reaction with alkene 2a (Scheme 4, bottom). From this catalysis, a kinetic isotope effect (KIE) of  $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} \approx 2.57$  was determined.<sup>20,21</sup>

On the basis of the aforementioned experimental evidence, we propose a mechanistic 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.<sup>22</sup> The reaction with the bicyclic olefin (carboruthenation) leads to a new ruthenium complex **B**. Protonation of **B** provides the 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.<sup>16</sup> Second, the significant activation effect by dioxygen, which appears critical for the entire catalysis, is not accounted for. Both effects deserve attention in subsequent more detailed mechanistic analyses.<sup>23,24</sup>

To illustrate the synthetic applicability of the hydroarylation products, a derivatization 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,<sup>25</sup> we can envision applications of this methodology in medicinal chemistry.<sup>26</sup>

In summary, we developed a ruthenium-catalyzed C–H bond activation leading to additions of (hetero)arenes onto 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

#### 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 compounds **3** and **4**, deuterium-labeling experiments, NMR spectra, X-ray crystal structure and data of **3ma** (<u>PDF</u>)

#### AUTHOR INFORMATION

#### **Corresponding Author**

\*E-mail: carsten.bolm@oc.rwth-aachen.de.

#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

H.C., W.D., and Q.G. are grateful to the China Scholarship Council (CSC) for predoctoral stipends. S.D. acknowledges support by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. We thank Dr. Kanniyappan Parthasarathy for supplying 2-phenyl-pridine- $D_{s}$ .

#### REFERENCES

(1) Recent reviews: (a) Lewis, J. C.; Bergman, R. G.; Ellman, J. A. Acc. Chem. Res. 2008, 41, 1013–1025. (b) Ackermann, L.; Vicente, R.; Kapdi, A. R. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 9792–9826. (c) Wendlandt, A. E.; Suess, A. M.; Stahl, S. S. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 11062–11087. (d) Engle, K. M.; Mei, T.-S.; Wasa, M.; Yu, J.-Q. Acc. Chem. Res. 2012, 45, 788–802. (e) Song, G.; Wang, F.; Li, X. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2012, 41, 3651–3678. (f) Zhu, C.; Wang, R.; Falck, J. R. Chem.—Asian J. 2012, 7, 1502–1514. (g) Li, B.-J.; Shi, Z.-J. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2012, 41, 5588–5598. (h) Rouquet, G.; Chatani, N. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2013, 52, 11726–11743. (i) Ackermann, L. Acc. Chem. Res. 2014, 47, 281–295. (j) Kuhl, N.; Schröder, N.; Glorius, F. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2014, 356, 1443–1460. (k) Xie, J.; Pan, C.; Abdukader, A.; Zhu, C. Chem. Res. 2014, 47, 1208–1219.

(2) Selected reports: (a) Baran, P. S.; Corey, E. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2002, 124, 7904–7905. (b) Beck, E. M.; Hatley, R.; Gaunt, M. J. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2008, 47, 3004–3007. (c) Chen, K.; Baran, P. S. Nature 2009, 459, 824–828. (d) McMurray, L.; O'Hara, F.; Gaunt, M. J. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2011, 40, 1885–1898. (3) Selected reports: (a) Watterson, S. H.; Dhar, T. G. M.; Ballentine, S. K.; Shen, Z.; Barrish, J. C.; Cheney, D.; Fleener, C. A.; Rouleau, K. A.; Townsend, R.; Hollenbaugh, D. L.; Iwanowicz, E. J. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2003**, *13*, 1273–1276. (b) Lanter, J. C.; Fiordeliso, J. J.; Alford, V. C.; Zhang, X.; Wells, K. M.; Russell, R. K.; Allan, G. F.; Lai, M.-T.; Linton, O.; Lundeen, S.; Sui, Z. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2007**, *17*, 2545–2548. (c) Garfunkle, J.; Kimball, F. S.; Trzupek, J. D.; Takizawa, S.; Shimamura, H.; Tomishima, M.; Boger, D. L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2009**, *131*, 16036–16038. (d) Yamaguchi, J.; Yamaguchi, A. D.; Itami, K. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. **2012**, *51*, 8960–9009.

(4) Recent reports: (a) Caillot, G.; Dufour, J.; Belhomme, M.-C.; Poisson, T.; Grimaud, L.; Pannecoucke, X.; Gillaizeau, I. Chem. Commun. 2014, 50, 5887–5890. (b) Wangweerawong, A.; Bergman, R. G.; Ellman, J. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 8520–8523. (c) Ye, B.; Cramer, N. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 7896–7899. (d) Yu, D.-G.; de Azambuja, F.; Glorius, F. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 7710–7712. (e) Sevov, C. S.; Hartwig, J. F. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 10625–10631. (f) Yang, Y.; Buchwald, S. L. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 8677–8681. (g) Becker, P.; Priebbenow, D. L.; Pirwerdjan, R.; Bolm, C. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 269–271. For comprehensive reviewes, see: (h) Colby, D. A.; Bergman, R. G.; Ellman, J. A. Chem. Rev. 2010, 110, 624–655. (i) Yeung, C. S.; Dong, V. M. Chem. Rev. 2011, 111, 1215–1292. (j) Arockiam, P. B.; Bruneau, C.; Dixneuf, P. H. Chem. Rev. 2012, 112, 5879–5918.

(5) For C-N bond formations, see: (a) Peng, J.; Xie, Z.; Chen, M.;
Wang, J.; Zhu, Q. Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 4702-4705. (b) Sadhu, P.; Alla,
S. K.; Punniyamurthy, T. J. Org. Chem. 2014, 79, 8541-8549.
(c) Takamatsu, K.; Hirano, K.; Satoh, T.; Miura, M. Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 2892-2895. (d) Wang, L.; Priebbenow, D. L.; Dong, W.; Bolm, C. Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 2661-2663.

(6) For C-O bond formations, see: (a) Yang, F.; Rauch, K.; Kettelhoit, K.; Ackermann, L. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 11285– 11288. (b) Negretti, S.; Narayan, A. R. H.; Chiou, K. C.; Kells, P. M.; Stachowski, J. L.; Hansen, D. A.; Podust, L. M.; Montgomery, J.; Sherman, D. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 4901–4904. (c) Barve, B. D.; Wu, Y.-C.; El-Shazly, M.; Korinek, M.; Cheng, Y.-B.; Wang, J.-J.; Chang, F.-R. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 1912–1915.

(7) For C-F bond formations, see: (a) Fier, P. S.; Hartwig, J. F. Science **2013**, 342, 956–960. (b) Lou, S.-J.; Xu, D.-Q.; Xia, A.-B.; Wang, Y.-F.; Liu, Y.-K.; Du, X.-H.; Xu, Z.-Y. Chem. Commun. **2013**, 49, 6218–6220. (c) Zi, W.; Wang, Y.-M.; Toste, F. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2014**, 136, 12864–12867.

(8) For C-S bond formations, see: (a) Xu, C.; Shen, Q. Org. Lett.
2014, 16, 2046-2049. (b) Yang, Y.; Hou, W.; Qin, L.; Du, J.; Feng, H.; Zhou, B.; Li, Y. Chem.—Eur. J. 2014, 20, 416-420.

(9) Murai, S.; Kakiuchi, F.; Sekine, S.; Tanaka, Y.; Kamatani, A.; Sonoda, M.; Chatani, N. *Nature* **1993**, *366*, 529–531.

(10) Chatani, N.; Asaumi, T.; Yorimitsu, S.; Ikeda, T.; Kakiuchi, F.; Murai, S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2001**, 123, 10935–10941.

(11) Harada, H.; Thalji, R. K.; Bergman, R. G.; Ellman, J. A. J. Org. Chem. 2008, 73, 6772–6779.

(12) Kozhushkov, S. I.; Yufit, D. S.; Ackermann, L. Org. Lett. 2008, 10, 3409–3412.

(13) Guimond, N.; Gorelsky, S. I.; Fagnou, K. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 6449–6457.

(14) Qi, Z.; Li, X. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2013, 52, 8995-9000.

(15) Dong, W.; Parthasarathy, K.; Cheng, Y.; Pan, F.; Bolm, C. Chem.—Eur. J. 2014, 20, 15732–15736.

(16) (a) Schinkel, M.; Marek, I.; Ackermann, L. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2013, 52, 3977–3980. (b) Schinkel, M.; Wang, L.; Bielefeld, K.; Ackermann, L. Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 1876–1879.

(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  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  at 120 °C for 3 h under dioxygen.

(19) Substituting  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  by  $RuCl_2(PPh_3)_3$  (2 mol %) and  $[Ru(CO)_3Cl_2]_2$  (1 mol %) gave **3aa** in 38% and 21% yield, respectively. No reaction was observed with  $Ru(CO)_2Cl_2(PPh_3)_2$ . Neither acetophenone nor N-phenylbenzaldimine could be applied instead of **1a** as coupling partner for **2a** under standard reaction conditions.

(20) (a) For a recent important paper asking for precautions when interpreting the H/D exchange reactions, see: Munz, D.; Webster-Gardiner, M.; Fu, R.; Strassner, T.; Goddard, W. A.; Gunnoe, T. B. ACS Catal. 2015, 5, 769–775. (b) For an important recent summary on the use of KIE, see: Simmons, E. M.; Hartwig, J. F. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2012, 51, 3066–3072.

(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.

(22) For an important kinetic study, see: Flegeau, E. F.; Bruneau, C.; Dixneuf, P. H.; Jutand, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2011**, 133, 10161–10170. (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.

(24) For a recent Ru-catalyzed C–H activation/alkyne annulation with dioxygen as the sole oxidant, see: Warratz, S.; Kornhaaß, C.; Cajaraville, A.; Niepötter, B.; Stalke, D.; Ackermann, L. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, DOI: 10.1002/anie.201500600.

(25) (a) Hu, J.; Yang, Q.; Xu, J.; Huang, C.; Fan, B.; Wang, J.; Lin, C.; Bian, Z.; Chan, A. S. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2013, 11, 814–820.
(b) Mannathan, S.; Cheng, C.-H. Chem. Commun. 2013, 49, 1557–1559. (c) Huang, X.-J.; Mo, D.-L.; Ding, C.-H.; Hou, X.-L. Synlett 2011, 943–946. (d) Cheng, H.; Yang, D. J. Org. Chem. 2012, 77, 9756–9765. (e) Lautens, M.; Fagnou, K.; Hiebert, S. Acc. Chem. Res. 2003, 36, 48–58. (f) Zhang, L.; Le, C. M.; Lautens, M. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 5951–5954.

(26) (a) Snyder, S. E.; Aviles-Garay, F. A.; Chakraborti, R.; Nichols, D. E.; Watts, V. J.; Mailman, R. B. *J. Med. Chem.* 1995, 38, 2395–2409.
(b) Perrone, R.; Berardi, F.; Colabufo, N. A.; Leopoldo, M.; Tortorella, V.; Fiorentini, F.; Olgiati, V.; Ghiglieri, A.; Govoni, S. *J. Med. Chem.* 1995, 38, 942–949.