

slow (k_s) and a fast (k_f) reacting component.^[22] Remarkably, the isomerization was found to be slower in 1-butanol than in the gels. Furthermore, isomerization in the (S)-**1** gel was found to be slower than in the (R)-**1** gel, especially for the fast reacting component. Apparently, the azobenzene groups in (R)-**2** experience a more exposed "solvent-like" environment in the (S)-**1** gel than in the (R)-**1** gel (Scheme 2). These results support the CD measurements, and can be explained by the different packing of **2** in aggregates of the same or opposite configuration leading to a difference in the free volume and polarity experienced by the azobenzene groups (Scheme 2).

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Palladium-Catalyzed Domino Reaction of 4-Methoxycarbonyloxy-2-butyn-1-ols with Phenols: A Novel Synthetic Method for Cyclic Carbonates with Recycling of CO₂**

Masahiro Yoshida and Masataka Ihara*

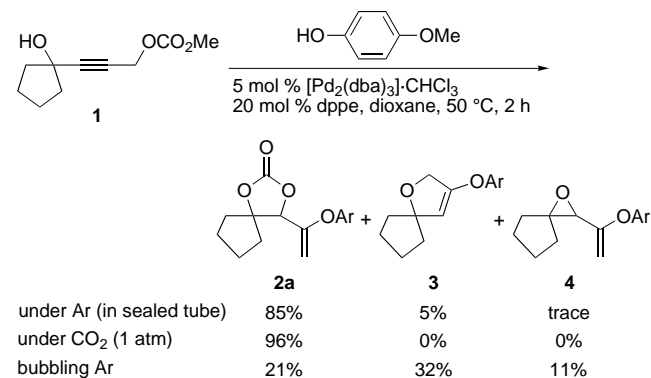
Allylic and propargylic carbonates are well-known compounds that undergo a variety of palladium-catalyzed transformations, which make up an important class of palladium-catalyzed reactions.^[1, 2] The key step in these reactions is the formation of a π -allyl- or -allenylpalladium complex by facile decarboxylation, which undergoes a variety of further transformations under neutral conditions. In these reactions, CO₂ is produced as a co-product in the decarboxylation step, but there are few reports on the recycling of this CO₂ molecule.^[3] Recently, the chemistry of CO₂ has received much attention from the viewpoint of carbon resources and environmental problems,^[4] and the fixation of CO₂ as cyclic carbonates represents an attractive area of organic synthesis.^[5–9] Here we report a novel synthesis of cyclic carbonates by palladium-catalyzed domino reaction of 4-methoxycarbonyloxy-2-butyn-

[*] Prof. M. Ihara, M. Yoshida
Department of Organic Chemistry
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Tohoku University, Aobayama, Sendai, 980-8578 (Japan)
Fax: (+81) 22-217-6877
E-mail: mihara@mail.pharm.tohoku.ac.jp

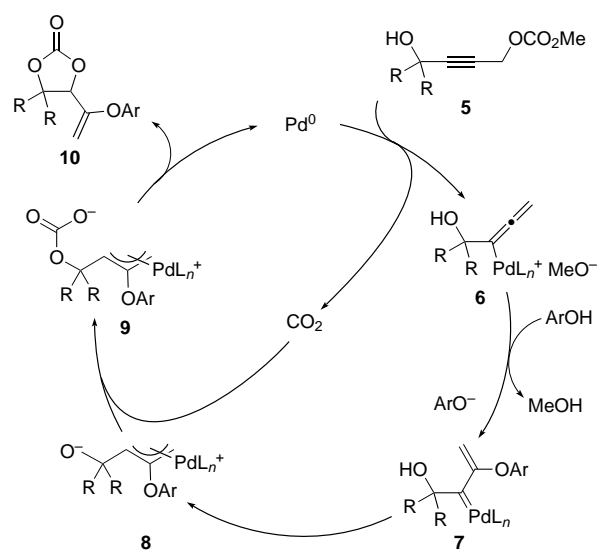
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1-ols with phenols. The reaction enables the efficient construction of cyclic carbonates in a one-pot process with recycling of the CO₂ molecule.

In an initial experiment, we found that the reaction of **1** and *p*-methoxyphenol with [Pd₂(dba)₃]·CHCl₃ and dppe under Ar in a sealed tube provided the cyclic carbonate **2a** in 85% yield with a small amount of dihydrofuran **3** and traces of epoxide **4** (Scheme 1). A plausible mechanism for the reaction is shown in Scheme 2. By reaction with palladium catalyst, the propargylic carbonate **5** would undergo elimination of CO₂ to give



Scheme 1. Domino reactions of **1** in the presence and absence of CO₂. dba = dibenzylideneacetone, dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphanyl)ethane, Ar = *p*-methoxyphenyl.



Scheme 2. Proposed reaction mechanism for the type of domino reaction shown in Scheme 1.

the allenylpalladium methoxide **6**, which would be subject to nucleophilic attack by phenols to give the π -allylpalladium complex **8** via the intermediate **7**. Finally, **8** would re-fix CO₂ to afford the carbonate species **9**, which would subsequently cyclize to produce the aryloxy-substituted cyclic carbonate **10**. It is expected that by-products **3** and **4** would be produced by direct cyclization of π -allylpalladium complex **8**.^[10] To the best of our knowledge, this is the first example of efficient re-fixation of the CO₂ molecule from a decarboxylation reaction. To confirm this, we examined the reactions in the presence and absence of CO₂ (Scheme 1). When the reaction was

carried out in a CO₂ atmosphere, the yield of **2a** increased to 96%. In contrast, when the reaction was carried out under bubbling Ar to remove the resulting CO₂, only 21% yield of **2a** was obtained together with 32% yield of **3** and 11% yield of **4**. These results provide strong evidence that decarboxylation is followed by re-fixation of the CO₂ molecule in the reaction cycle.

To examine the scope of this reaction, we next attempted the reaction of **1** with various substituted phenols ArOH [Eq. (1), Table 1]. All of the reactions successfully proceeded

Table 1. Domino reactions of **1** with various substituted phenols [Eq. (1)].

Entry	X	T [°C]	t [h]	Product	Yield [%]
1	4-OMe	50	2	2a	85
2	2-OMe	RT	3	2b	90
3	4-Me	RT	5	2c	87
4	H	RT	9	2d	81
5	[a]	RT	4	2e	74
6	4-Cl	50	2	2f	70
7	4-F	50	2	2g	54
8	4-acetyl	50	5	2h	36

[a] ArOH = 1-naphthol.

to give the corresponding cyclic carbonates **2a–h** in moderate to good yields. In particular, the products were produced in high yields when **1** was treated with phenols bearing electron-donating substituents (entries 1–3). Some results of palladium-catalyzed domino reactions of various propargylic carbonates with *p*-methoxyphenol are summarized in Table 2. The reactions of **1**, **11**, **13**, and **15**, which contain five- to eight-membered rings, with *p*-methoxyphenol provided the corresponding cyclic carbonates in high yields (entries 1–4). Interestingly, **17**, which is known to be transformed into the aryloxy-substituted cyclopentanone at high temperature,^[11] was converted into the cyclic carbonate **18** in 63% yield at room temperature (entry 5). The reactions of acyclic substrates **19** and **21** also gave the corresponding products **20** and **22** (entries 6 and 7). Although the yield of **22** was not high (42%), it dramatically increased to 97% when the reaction was carried out under an atmosphere of CO₂ (entry 7).

The reaction was applicable to 4-aryloxybutyn-1-ols **23** and **25**, in which the nucleophilic phenolic components were present within the molecule [Eq. (2)]. The

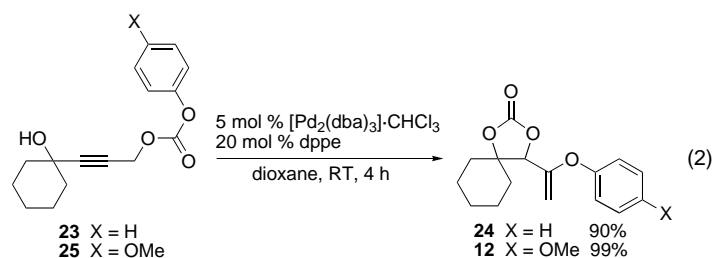
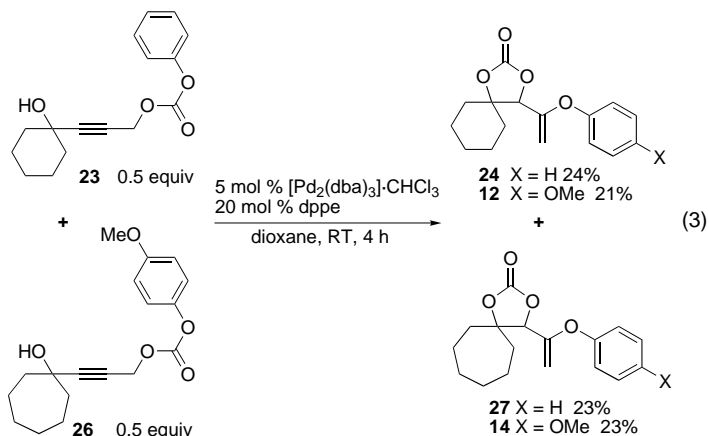


Table 2. Domino reactions of various propargylic carbonates with *p*-methoxyphenol.^[a]

Entry	Substrate	T [°C]	Product ^[b]	Yield [%] ^[c]
1		50		85 (96)
2		RT		91
3		RT		89
4		RT		80
5		RT		63
6		50		83
7		50		42 (97)

[a] Reactions were carried out in the presence of 5 mol% [Pd₂(dba)₃]·CHCl₃, 20 mol% dppe, and 1.1 equiv of *p*-methoxyphenol in dioxane under argon for 2–5 h. [b] R = *p*-methoxyphenyl. [c] The yields in parentheses are for reactions carried out under CO₂ (1 atm).

reactions of **23** and **25** with the palladium catalyst gave the desired cyclic carbonates **24** and **12**. Compound **12** was obtained almost quantitatively. A crossover experiment showed that the aryloxy ion was completely dissociated from the propargyl unit in the reaction [Eq. (3)]. This implies



that the reaction proceeds through the degradation of propargylic carbonates into three components—allenylpalladium species, aryloxy, and CO₂—followed by re-formation of these components with high efficiency.

In conclusion, we have developed a novel synthesis of cyclic carbonates by palladium-catalyzed domino reactions of 4-methoxycarbonyloxy-2-butyn-1-ols with phenols. The reaction enables the construction of cyclic carbonates by efficient re-fixation of the CO₂ molecule under mild conditions, which is a very convenient and environmentally friendly method. The utility of this reaction in organic synthesis and its application to catalytic asymmetric reactions are now under investigation.

Experimental Section

General procedure for the palladium-catalyzed domino reaction of 4-methoxycarbonyloxy-2-butyn-1-ols with phenols: Reaction of **11** with *p*-methoxyphenol (Table 2, entry 2): *p*-Methoxyphenol (26.9 mg, 0.217 mmol), [Pd₂(dba)₃]·CHCl₃ (10.2 mg, 0.0099 mmol), and dppe (15.7 mg, 0.0394 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **11** (41.8 mg, 0.197 mmol) in dioxane (3 mL) at room temperature. After being stirred for 4 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated, and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel with hexane/AcOEt (90/10) as eluant to give **12** (54.9 mg, 91%) as colorless needles. M.p. 80–83 °C; IR (KBr): $\bar{\nu}$ = 2925, 2850, 1795, 1620 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18–1.40 (m, 1H), 1.61–1.85 (m, 7H), 1.97–2.13 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.17 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 6.86–6.92 (m, 2H), 6.95–7.01 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.8, 21.9, 24.6, 30.6, 36.6, 55.5, 83.1, 85.6, 89.7, 114.9 (2C), 122.1 (2C), 147.1, 153.9, 156.3, 157.0; MS (70 eV): *m/z* 304 [*M*⁺]; HR-MS calcd for C₁₇H₂₀O₅ 304.1311; found 304.1314.

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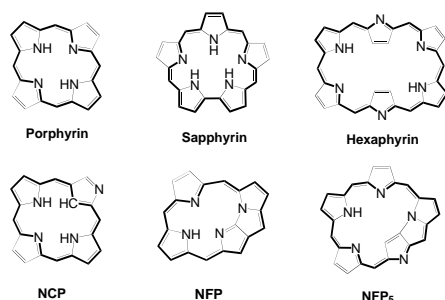
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N-Fused Pentaphyrin

Ji-Young Shin, Hiroyuki Furuta,* and Atsuhiko Osuka*

Porphyrin analogues have been attracting considerable attention not only from the interest of annulenic chemistry but also from their use in a variety of applications.^[1] Recently, reinvestigation of the Rothmund-type pyrrole–aryl aldehyde condensation^[2] has revealed the concurrent formation of a porphyrin isomer, the *N*-confused porphyrin (NCP),^[3] and expanded porphyrins such as sapphyrin^[4] and hexaphyrin^[5].



We have also reported a new analogue, the *N*-fused porphyrin (NFP), in which a unique fused tri-pentacyclic ring exists in the porphyrin core as the result of an inversion of the confused ring in NCP.^[6] Herein we report the first example of a normal-type of fused expanded porphyrin, *N*-fused pentaphyrin (NFP₅), which contains a fused tri-pentacyclic ring in the core.

The title compound was synthesized under similar Rothmund-type conditions, namely, the acid-catalyzed condensation of pentafluorobenzaldehyde and unsubstituted pyrrole, followed by oxidation with 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ). Along with the *meso*-pentafluorophenylporphyrin (12%), *meso*-pentafluorophenylhexaphyrin^[5] (20%), and other higher homologues of *meso*-aryl type

(around 13%),^[7] yellowish (**1-Y**) and reddish (**1-R**) products, both of which show parent mass peaks in the fast atom bombardment (FAB) mass spectra corresponding to the pentapyrrolic macrocycle, could be isolated in a total yield of approximately 15%. The ratio of the two products **1-R** and **1-Y** changed greatly according to the amounts of oxidant used and converged to **1-R** when DDQ was used in excess (2.5 equiv). The similar products **2** and **3** were also obtained, in yields of 19 and 2%, respectively, from the analogous reactions with 2,6-dichloro- and 2,4,6-trimethylbenzaldehyde.^[8] Although the reaction is not optimized yet, the relatively high concentration of reactants (> 50 mM) seems effective for the formation of products.

The structure of the *N*-fused product **1-Y** was revealed by X-ray analysis on a single crystal (Figure 1).^[9] A fused tri-pentacyclic ring with inward- and outward-pointing nitrogen atoms was found in a pentapyrrolic core. The inner nitrogen atom N(27) of the fused ring was connected to the β -carbon atom C(3) of the neighboring pyrrole ring. One of the pyrrole rings was canted significantly: the tilting angles of each ring, clockwise from the fused ring, were 24.96, 15.32, 22.46, and 99.18° to the mean plane of the 30 core atoms. Two of the

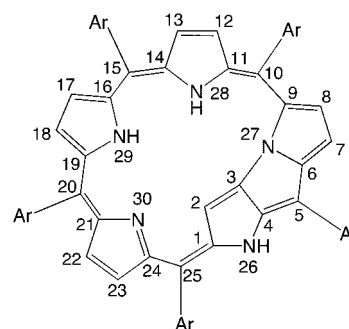
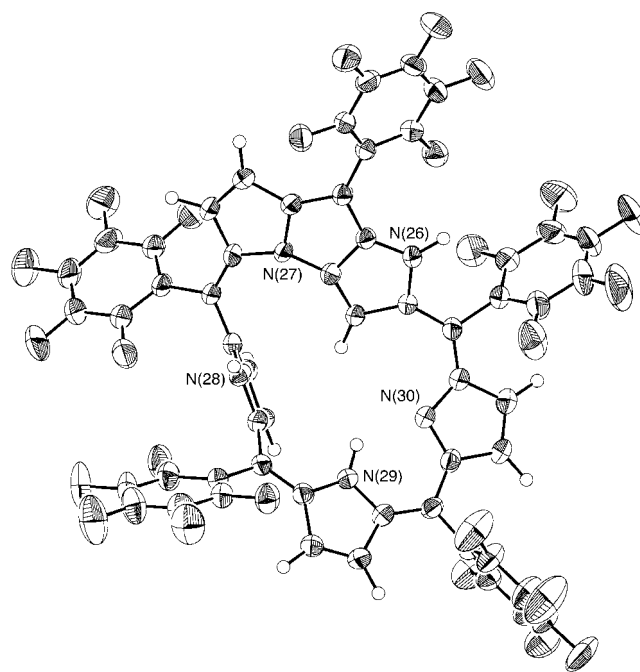


Figure 1. Top: X-ray crystal structure of *meso*-pentafluorophenyl *N*-fused pentaphyrin (**1-Y**). Bottom: Schematic representation of NFP₅-Y showing the numbering scheme.

[*] Prof. H. Furuta,^[+] Prof. A. Osuka, J.-Y. Shin
Department of Chemistry
Graduate School of Science
Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8502 (Japan)
Fax: (+81) 75-753-3970

[+] PRESTO, Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST)

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